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West Presses Serbia To Accept Troops

Top Diplomats May Be Sent To Belgrade in Last-Ditch Bid

By William Drozdiak
Washington Post Service

BERLIN — With the clock ticking toward a deadline of noon Saturday for a make-or-break deal on Kosovo, the United States, Russia and leading European powers embarked on a frantic round of endgame maneuvering Thursday to put pressure on the Belgrade government to accept up to 28,000 foreign peacekeeping troops on its soil.

Senior diplomats said a high-level delegation — possibly including the U.S. secretary of state, Madeleine Albright, the British foreign secretary, Robin Cook, and the French foreign minister, Hubert Vedrine — could be sent to Belgrade this weekend to make a final push to persuade President

Slobodan Milosevic to drop his opposition to a foreign peacekeeping force — an issue that has become the principal stumbling block to a peace agreement.

President Milosevic, who wields ultimate power over the Serbian delegation at the Rambouillet peace talks, insists that the presence of any outside soldiers would be an intolerable breach of Yugoslav sovereignty.

Until now, he has rejected arguments

Yeltsin says he warns U.S. that Russia opposes air attacks. Page 5.

that a NATO-led force could prove beneficial to Yugoslav interests by disarming the Kosovo Liberation Army as part of an armistice that would see the restoration of self-rule to the ethnic Albanians, who comprise nine out of 10 inhabitants in Kosovo.

The sources said an ultimatum to Mr. Milosevic would include a stark warning that 430 NATO aircraft, including F-117 stealth jets and B-52 bombers, were now ready to launch an escalating series of bombing raids.

These would begin by knocking out Yugoslav air defense systems and later strike the bases of Serbian security forces that have waged a brutal crackdown in Kosovo for the last year.

Mrs. Albright said she spoke by telephone on Thursday with Mr. Milosevic and described the grave risks he was courting.

"He should understand that if air strikes occur, he will be hit hard and he will be deprived of the things he values," Mrs. Albright said. "I think he understands that this is a key moment in terms of the future of the former Republic of Yugoslavia."

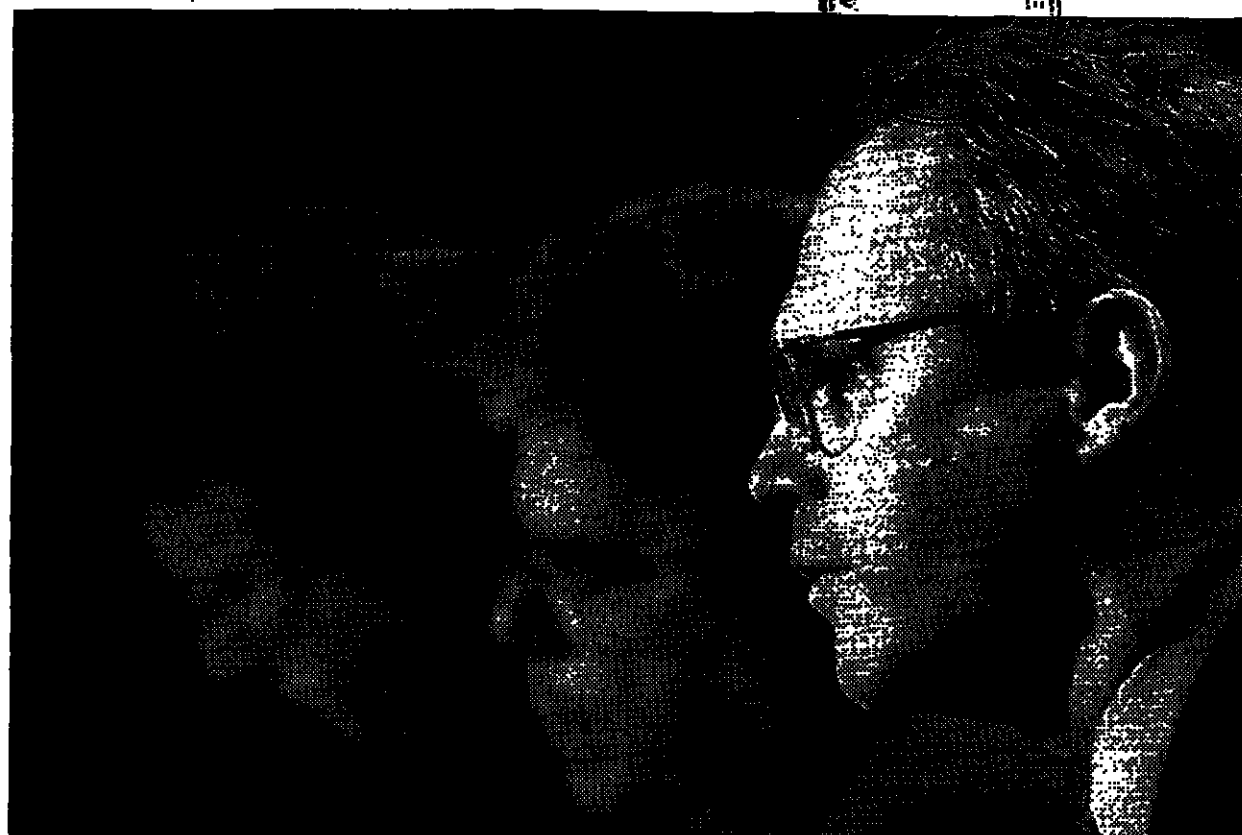
As a precaution against any Yugoslav retaliation for punitive air strikes, the United States, Britain and Canada began preparations Thursday for all nonessential personnel to be evacuated from their embassies in Belgrade by Saturday. They also advised all foreign citizens to leave Yugoslavia.

If Mr. Milosevic should finally accept the peacekeepers, Western diplomatic sources said he might win some attractive "carrots" — incentives such as relief from political and economic sanctions, including a ban on participation in international financial institutions.

Yugoslavia might also gain greater flexibility on military matters in a peace accord, such as the number of troops it could position along the Albanian border.

If the final hours produce signs that Mr. Milosevic is willing to make concessions, senior Western officials said it was plausible that the Saturday deadline might be postponed by a day or two. But

See NATO, Page 10



Three negotiators, from right, Christopher Hill of the United States, Boris Mayorovskiy of Russia and Wolfgang Petritsch of the EU, saying Thursday there had been no progress in talks between Serbs and ethnic Albanians.

Kurds United by Arrest of Ocalan

Shared Sense of Outrage Sweeps Away Long-Simmering Divisions

By Roger Cohen
New York Times Service

BERLIN — For a decade Kurds have been streaming into Germany seeking political asylum, and on Thursday one of them, Amin Aram, walked into the Kurdish Community Center here, took a tea from a friend and declared: "Every one of us, without exception, is angry."

A window cleaner, Mr. Aram, 31, is one of 210,000 Kurds who have come here since 1989, fleeing various forms of violence. Unlike Abdullah Ocalan, the Kurdish rebel leader arrested by Turkish agents Monday, he is from Iraq, not Turkey. He says that he is not a supporter of Mr. Ocalan's Kurdish Workers Party.

Such political divisions have long undermined the scattered Kurds in their battle for a homeland. But for the overwhelming majority of the 850,000 Kurds now living in Europe, it is clear that Mr. Ocalan's arrest has constituted a moment when differences are swept away, however fleetingly, by a shared sense of outrage.

"The American government says Ocalan is a terrorist," Mr. Aram said. "But my family was called 'terrorists' by Saddam Hussein just because we are Kurds. Then he killed my mother, three brothers and two sisters in a chemical weapons attack on the town of Halabja. Whatever group we are from, we cannot accept Ocalan's arrest."

Long focused on the problems arising from the fight for new nation states in the Balkans, European governments have abruptly awakened this week to an

other conflict in their midst, one quietly fed over many years by a fast-growing Kurdish diaspora in Europe that this week revealed an ability to organize, communicate and act.

"The arrest of Ocalan has united the Kurdish nation," said Magnus Ranstorp, an expert on Middle Eastern at St. Andrew University in Scotland. "What European governments do not see is that in many ways the Kurdish struggle reflects the early days of the

Ocalan is held on an obscure Turkish island prison. • Three top Greek ministers resign. Page 5.

Palestinian struggle: putting an issue on the international agenda through terrorism. The situation could become more and more inflamed."

Certainly, conversations with Kurds in several European countries suggest that the continentwide show of defiance this week reflected developments likely to weigh on the continent for some time: the growing sophistication of Mr. Ocalan's movement; anger stronger than any internal Kurdish differences, and the helter-skelter growth of a Kurdish population in Europe that had come to represent a large pool of restive sentiment.

Even as Kurds ended a three-day occupation of the Greek embassy in London on Thursday and protests in most places abated, tension remained high. In Germany, Kurdish protesters hurled petrol bombs through the windows of a Turkish cultural center in Heilbronn and attacked visitors with baseball bats. Three persons were injured.



The police leading Kurds away from Greece's embassy in London.

[Protesters demonstrating against Ocalan's arrest shot and wounded three Turkish policemen Thursday in the southern town of Ceyhan. Reuters reported from Ankara, quoting the state-run Anatolian news agency.

See KURDS, Page 10

Costly Deal Averts Strike, For Now, By IG Metall

German Employers, Yielding a 4.2% Raise, Warn of Future Layoffs

By John Schmid
International Herald Tribune

FRANKFURT — The IG Metall union won a costly wage increase Thursday that averted a strike, but the industry federation on the other side of the contract agreement said it expected the accord to trigger layoffs and possibly lead to new labor tensions.

"We certainly expect job losses," said Martin Leutz, spokesman for the Gesamtmetall industry federation, which reluctantly accepted the contract early Thursday after a two-day, 30-hour mediation session.

The union's hard-fought agreement to raise wages by 4.2 percent over 14 months — a raise more than four times the inflation rate — sent a shudder through German boardrooms, Bonn's government, the European Central Bank and even other European capitals, where the settlement stands to influence pay deals abroad.

Basking in a clear victory, the IG Metall president, Klaus Zwickel, celebrated the settlement as a "happy outcome" after several years of pay increases that barely kept pace with inflation. The settlement gave the union, which had refused to settle for less than 4 percent, virtually everything it had demanded. The large public-sector union OTV, which wants a 5.5 percent raise this year, quickly seized on IG Metall's success and declared that it would use the metalworkers' contract as a benchmark for its own wage talks.

But to others, the contract represents a setback for Germany's economic restructuring. The militant union successfully defeated a key industry demand to create a flexible wage system, crushing the sort of labor-market deregulation that many say is essential to create jobs in Germany's tightly regulated economy.

And in a political blow to Chancellor Gerhard Schröder, the result abruptly halts a two-year period of national consensus on wages that was helping to moderate Germany's steep labor costs and had created about 70,000 jobs in the metalworking, automobile, engineering, machinery industries, analysts say. Mr. Schröder's leftist government was elected on a pledge to reduce unemployment.

Under his "Alliance for Jobs" program, the chancellor wants to use a series of roundtables to cajole business and unions onto a consensus path to attack unemployment, which remains stuck at near-record levels. Resistance by unions to compromise on wages

See GERMANY, Page 13

As Kosovars Talk, Others Are Training For Combat

By Steven Erlanger
New York Times Service

KOSTRCE, Serbia — The Kosovo Liberation Army's negotiators are talking in France about peace, but its officers in the forbidding, frozen hills of southern Kosovo prepare for more war.

In a training class for officers in a primary school at this village eight kilometers (five miles) north of Suva Reka, there is little sense that the members of the KLA are about to pack up and turn in their new uniforms for those of civilian police officers.

In just one year, this rebel army of ethnic Albanians has gone from ragtag guerrilla bands to a force of 10,000, perhaps 15,000, equipped with increasingly sophisticated weapons and bent on achieving not the autonomy for Kosovo that is on offer at the talks, but independence.

The officers here are trained fighters who have been chosen to lead others. They say they would obey their superiors' commands after any peace accord with the Serbs.

But they hasten to add that a core of the KLA must remain intact and armed, to protect the Kosovo Albanians when any Western peacekeeping forces leave.

"No peace is possible without a military — to live without a military is not a serious idea," said Major Sadik Halilaj.

"No one here trusts the Serbs, with their brutal expansionism and their megalomania. No one can trust them after they burned our villages, poisoned our wells, killed women and children and out on the eyes of the dead."

The ethnic Albanians' sworn enemy, President Slobodan Milosevic of what remains of Yugoslavia, is currently blocking a deal providing Kosovo self-rule for three years under the protection of 28,000 NATO troops. But his objections will probably be worn down.

More lasting are serious concerns about how any deal will be carried out on the ground.

Will the KLA — a force with growing powers on its home turf — accept disarmament, dissolution, a ban on the wearing of military uniforms and the conduct of military exercises?

The KLA's blossoming insurgency against Belgrade's rule in this southern province of Serbia has altered old assumptions and prompted vicious Serbian countermeasures.

But the increasing military and political power of the rebel army has also forced the West to move now to forestall any Kosovo formal independence, which Washington fears could disrupt the whole region, including nearby Bosnia, where thousands of American troops have already spent four years.

Such diplomatic niceties are lost on Major Halilaj and his men.

"There is no going back, and it is impossible now for Albanians and Serbs

In Global Economic Crisis, the Solution Is as Elusive as the Cause

By Nicholas D. Kristof
with Sheryl WuDunn
New York Times Service

On Labor Day in the United States last September, as financial markets worldwide were tumbling in the aftermath of Russia's financial turmoil, an impatient and annoyed Bill Clinton summoned his top advisers to the Yellow Oval Room on the third floor of the White House. Mr. Clinton, in cowboy boots, settled in his favorite chair by the fireplace, and Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin sat directly opposite, as he likes to do, so that he could look the president in the eye.

Mr. Clinton said he wanted to attack the crisis more directly and more openly. He also wanted his administration to lead the way in rethinking the global financial system, so as to reduce the risk of another crisis down the road.

He had been speaking on the telephone with Prime Minister Tony Blair of Britain and they had agreed that world leaders should step out and convey a sense of urgency about altering the international economic order — and so he was

frustrated with Mr. Rubin's caution.

"Clinton was leaning on Treasury for some action," recalled one participant. "He was leaning hard. And of course the Treasury wanted to be cautious. It was telling the political types in the White House that this is sensitive stuff — you say one wrong thing and you can mess things up."

The underlying problem is that today's Bretton Woods economic structure — based on fixed exchange rates and the World Bank and International Monetary Fund — is widely regarded as outdated and insufficient to steady today's markets.

"We need to establish a new system for the 21st century," said Eisuke Sakakibara, Japan's deputy minister of finance. "You could call it a new Bretton Woods. It's difficult, but it's got to be done."

But what precisely is to be done?

While almost everyone agrees that the present system is inadequate, there is no consensus on what

would be better.

Ideas range from radical proposals for a global central bank and semifixed exchange rates among major currencies to more modest suggestions for tougher bank standards and curbs on hedge funds.

At the annual World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, recently, some European officials urged the establishment of an "early warning system," roughly equivalent to a weather satellite alerting the world to approaching economic tornadoes. But the technology simply does not exist.

Others argue for an "exit tax," which would require investors to pay a fee for removing their money from a country quickly — an experiment that Malaysia is trying. But Mr. Rubin fears the tax could scare off investors.

Just as Mr. Clinton's enthusiasm for doing something seems to have ebbed as the sense of crisis faded, there seems little chance that the present debate will lead to any major changes soon

in the international economic system.

One reason is that for all the tragedies now unfolding in places like Indonesia, supporters of the current economic system say that over all, it has done an excellent job of promoting economic growth.

By some economic measures, Indonesians are better off materially today, in the bust stage of their boom-bust cycle, than if they had bought stability at the price of sacrificing growth in the boom years.

"All countries have benefited from the free market system," said Jürgen Stark, vice president of the Bundesbank, Germany's central bank. "I am a little worried about all the talk about a 'new financial architecture.' What's new? What would it accomplish?"

The upshot is that although the metaphor is always "new financial architecture," the proposals for the financial system are usually fairly small-bore.

"I think architecture is a bad word," said John

See MARKETS, Page 16

See KOSOVO, Page 10

Newstand Prices	
Atlanta	10.00 FF Lebanon 11.300
Amman	12.50 FF Morocco 16 Dh
Antwerp	1.000 CFA Cote d'Ivoire 10.00 CFA
Baghdad	1.000 CFA Cote d'Ivoire 10.00 CFA
Bahia	10.00 FF Saudi Arabia 10 SR
Bangkok	1.100 CFA Senegal 1.100 CFA
Bombay	3.000 Lira Spain 250 Ptas
Buenos Aires	1.250 JD U.A.E. 10.00 Dh
Calcutta	700 Ptas U.S. Mil (Eur) \$1.20

Blue Jays Trade Clemens to Yankees

The New York Yankees acquired Roger Clemens, a five-time Cy Young Award winner, from the Toronto Blue Jays in a U.S. baseball trade Thursday. The Yankees sent pitcher David Wells,

along with Graeme Lloyd and Homer Bush, to Toronto. Clemens approved, but his contract, which has two years to run and calls for him to be paid \$16.1 million, was not extended. Page 18.

Dutch Insurer Is Buying Transamerica

Aegon NV, the Dutch insurer, is buying Transamerica Corp. of the United States for \$11.1 billion. The deal will create one of the largest in-

surance groups in the United States and also accelerate the reshuffling of the financial services industry in Europe.

As part of the deal, Transamerica, the sixth-largest American life insurer, which also has leasing, real estate and commercial lending units, will be merged with the insurance business of Provident Corp., which Aegon acquired for \$2.6 billion in 1997. Page 11.

AGENDA

The Dollar

	Thursday 9 A.M.	previous close
New York	1.1204	1.124
Euro	1.8355	1.8345
Pound	119.885	118.905
DM	1.7455	1.738
FF	5.8542	5.8515

Dollars per pound and per euro.

The Dow

	Thursday close	percent change
+103.16	9,298.63	+1.12%
+13.25	1,237.28	+1.06%
+11.64	2,260.55	+0.52%

The Intermarket

Page 4, 18.

The IHT on-line www.ihf.com

Some on Right Lose Hope

After Acquittal of Clinton, 'Politics Has Failed'

By Thomas B. Edsall
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — In the aftermath of President Bill Clinton's acquittal by the Senate, the conservative leader Paul Weyrich has created a firestorm on the right by declaring that the culture war has been lost and that he no longer believes "there is a moral majority."

Mr. Weyrich, an architect of right-wing strategies for the last 30 years and head of the Free Congress Foundation, wrote in a bitter, post-impeachment letter addressed "Dear Friend" and placed on the foundation's Web site:

"Politics itself has failed. And politics has failed because of the collapse of the culture. The culture we are living in

becomes an ever-wider sewer." "Suffice it to say," he went on, "that the United States is very close to becoming a state totally dominated by an alien ideology, an ideology bitterly hostile to Western culture."

Mr. Weyrich's comments suggest that efforts by conservatives to win the Republican presidential nomination are futile, virtually certain to be rejected by "a cultural collapse of historic proportions, a collapse so great that it simply overwhelms politics."

A number of conservative and religious leaders have voiced concerns over what they see as a general moral decline, a concern that has intensified as polls

See RIGHT, Page 10

A Heist Turned Farce / Sudden Riches, Reckless Spending

This Gang of Thieves Needed a Mastermind

Sue Anne Pressley
Washington Post Service

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — The friends and neighbors of Steve and Michelle Chambers became suspicious soon after the news broke that an armored car company in nearby Charlotte had been relieved of \$17 million.

Here was the tip-off: Three weeks after the October 1997 heist, the blue-collar couple moved from a rural mobile home to a \$635,000 mansion in the swank, gated confines of Cramer Mountain, an exclusive community here about 15 miles (about 25 kilometers) east of Charlotte. But that was only the beginning. They also bought a BMW convertible, a \$10,000 pool table, a Rolex watch and a 3½-carat diamond ring worth \$43,000. Michelle made a beeline to a plastic surgeon for a set of breast implants, while Steve tossed out \$900 in tips on a single night out.

After the reckless spending spree, the couple's downfall was just a matter of time, five months to be exact. And now, they and 17 others have been convicted and are awaiting sentences on an assortment of federal charges arising from the heist.

On Saturday, the contents of the Chambers' ill-gotten palace and equally frantic buys made by their accomplices are to be auctioned off by federal marshals. Items include a velvet portrait of Elvis Presley, a Harley-Davidson Road King motorcycle, several big-screen TVs and a painting that hung in the Chambers' new foyer: a bulldog dressed as General George Patton, complete with riding crop.

In the annals of bold, wacky but almost successful crimes, of crooks with dumb luck and dumber follow-through, the Loomis Fargo & Co. heist will be long remembered among FBI agents and area residents who followed every unraveling detail. Besides being the second-biggest bank robbery in U.S. history, it had an improbable cast of characters and a plot line that drew national attention — and lots of disbelief laughter.

But there also was a sinister, even sad edge beneath the antics. During their five months as millionaires, the robbers grew ever more paranoid and eventually turned on each other. Some of them plotted to kill another member of the gang. And in their desperate effort to smash the money, the Chambers enlisted the aid of their working-class parents and other former innocents to obtain safe-deposit boxes. Now, those older people, who never had been in legal trouble, are convicted felons.

"I think this case can be summed up as how a sudden influx of cash really fails to change a person's true character," said a Charlotte defense attorney, Monroe Whitesides, who related the tale in the current edition of Charlotte magazine under the headline, "White Trash Crime."

Mr. Whitesides, 39, entered the picture in January 1998 when he was contacted by a frightened client he identifies only as "Ken," a printing company co-worker of Eric Payne of Belmont, North Carolina, who would later be convicted as one of the robbers. With Mr. Payne, Ken, also known as Confidential Informant No. 2, hung out often at the Chambers' new mansion and ended up as a crucial source for the FBI.

Neither the FBI nor the U.S. Attorney's office has had much to say about the case, citing the coming sentencing and the fact that two final money-laundering defendants have yet to go to trial. That has left Mr. Whitesides and a licensed private investigator, Steve Harness, 50, of Charlotte, who also is Ken's uncle, to provide the details. Little was revealed at trial, because all the defendants but one pleaded guilty.

The story began Oct. 4, 1997, when a Loomis Fargo vault supervisor, David Scott Ghanit, used a stick to prop open a vault door at the company's Charlotte depository. Mr. Whitesides said. Returning later that night, Mr. Ghanit began loading a



Kelly Campbell, front, followed by Michelle Chambers and Eric Payne in the U.S. courthouse in Charlotte, North Carolina, last year. The velvet Elvis portrait was acquired in the robbers' spending spree.



bank manager. "How much can I deposit without the bank reporting the transaction?" Mr. Whitesides said the man-ager, who couldn't help noticing that the money was still encased in Loomis Fargo wrappers, made an excuse to decline the deposit.

company van with cash, and soon made his first mistake. Although he removed the tapes from two security cameras, he failed at first to realize that 16 others were recording his every move.

Mr. Ghanit, now 39, was a tall, decorated Gulf War veteran whom early newspaper reports likened to Huckleberry Finn. He had never been in trouble with the law. But in addition to a wife, he also had a girlfriend, Kelly Campbell, who had previously worked at Loomis Fargo, and Ms. Campbell knew a small-time hustler named Steve Chambers. Together with a pair of other accomplices, the three had put together the scheme.

Later that night, Mr. Chambers and two partners worked feverishly in a nearby wooded area to unload the stacks of bills that Mr. Ghanit had piled into the Loomis Fargo van. They had to leave \$3.3 million behind, according to court documents, because they had not brought enough 55-gallon (208-liter) barrels to store the bills in.

While the others worked, Ms. Campbell drove Mr. Ghanit, who realized too late that he had been taped, to Columbia, South Carolina, to catch a plane to Mexico, only to learn that the airport did not offer international flights. Ms. Campbell then deposited him on a bus for Atlanta, and hurried back.

According to later news reports, Mr. Ghanit actually made it to Mexico and holed up in a resort hotel, where he spent his time smoking cigarettes and eating M&Ms.

MEANWHILE, back at the mansion, Mr. Chambers, 31, was acting the part of The Big Boss — and the biggest spender of them all. Ken was a witness to many of the gang's more flamboyant exploits. He was along when Mr. Chambers hired a chauffeured limousine to ferry the group to dinner at the modest Western Steak restaurant in nearby Gastonia.

At Cricker's Lounge, Mr. Ghanit looked on as Michelle and Steve got into a fight about her suggestive dancing; when the bouncer threw Steve out, he boasted he would come back and buy the club.

However, it was Michelle Chambers, now 26 and the mother of two small children, who reached new heights of indiscretion. A month after the robbery, she reportedly entered a Belmont bank with a suitcase stuffed with \$200,000 in cash and asked the

bank manager, "How much can I deposit without the bank reporting the transaction?" Mr. Whitesides said the man-ager, who couldn't help noticing that the money was still encased in Loomis Fargo wrappers, made an excuse to decline the deposit.

At home, Ken reported, Mr. Chambers stocked the wine cellar with Fabs Blue Ribbon beer. Although he had bought the house fully furnished, he added plenty of personal touches, like the elephant figurines scattered everywhere for good luck. A stock of fine Cuban cigars worth \$20,000 was ruined, however, when he did not realize he had to put water in his expensive new humidifier.

In January 1998, about three months after the robbery, Mr. Chambers offered to pay Ken \$150,000 if Ken would smuggle \$2.5 million in cash to a bank account in the Cayman Islands, Mr. Whitesides said. That is when Ken, who was concerned about potential legal problems and his own safety, notified his uncle, who contacted the attorney. The three met with the FBI. Ken was outfitted with a \$16,000 digital recorder, Mr. Harness said, and sent off to gather incriminating evidence.

By February of last year, Mr. Chambers was packing a pistol and hiring a bodyguard. As March approached, it was clear he had decided that Mr. Ghanit, still languishing in Mexico, was too dangerous to live; and besides, why continue to share the money with him?

Mr. Chambers discussed with his bodyguard, Mike McKinney, how best to smuggle a firearm into Mexico, according to court documents, and booked Mr. McKinney a flight. But by this time, the FBI had a line on Mr. Ghanit's whereabouts. Mr. Harness said, having tapped a pay phone that, according to their surveillance, Ms. Campbell often used.

Near dawn on March 2, the big spree came to an end. Agents showed up at the Cramer Mountain mansion to arrest the Chamberses and Ms. Campbell. They went quietly. Mr. Ghanit was arrested in Playa del Carmel, Mexico, seeming almost relieved it was over, according to news reports. Other arrests soon followed, and the contents of nine safe-deposit boxes were seized.

For his trouble, Mr. Whitesides said, Ken received a "nice six-figure reward." Much of the stolen money was reclaimed or accounted for, said the FBI, except for about \$2 million that remains missing.

But this time, Mr. Whitesides wryly noted, "Nobody's talking."

France Can Extradite Killer Convicted in U.S.

By Craig R. Whitney
New York Times Service

BORDEAUX — Ira Einhorn, a former hippie convicted while on the lam of killing a Philadelphia woman 21 years ago, can be extradited to the United States for a new trial if he will not face the death penalty there, according to a French court ruling Thursday.

But Mr. Einhorn, 58, wearing a blue chambray shirt in the Court of Appeals on Thursday morning, remained a free man after the police bundled him out after the ruling. He said nothing before he left.

His French lawyers said they expected further appeals would enable him to stay on for at least two more years in Champagne-Mouron, the French village where, 16 years after his disappearance from Philadelphia, the police discovered him hiding out under a phony name in 1997 and arrested him.

He was later released but has to report to the authorities near where he lives twice a week.

Elizabeth Hall, a sister of Helen (Holly) Maddux, the murder victim, said after the verdict: "I'm not really afraid the way we used to be that he would flee and we wouldn't be able to find him, but I wouldn't be surprised if he made a run for it. He won't go very far for very long."

The decision reversed a ruling by the same court in December 1997. It barred Mr. Einhorn's extradition then because he would not have had the right to a new trial and would have had to begin serving the life sentence imposed on him in Pennsylvania in 1993.

The ruling by the three judges of the court said Thursday that they had reconsidered because Pennsylvania passed a law last year providing people convicted in their absence of crimes with the right to retrial if they demanded one when they returned.

This, plus legal assurances from American authorities that Mr. Einhorn would not face the death penalty because his crime was committed before Pennsylvania put capital punishment on the books in 1978, put him on substantially the same legal footing as a murder defendant would face in France, the judges ruled.

The judgment grants the U.S. extradition request provided, it says, that "Ira Einhorn in fact receives a fair new trial if he asks for one on returning to the State of Pennsylvania" and that "the death penalty will not be requested and, if pronounced, not carried out."

Since he had made no move to flee France even after his temporary arrest here, they decided, there was no need to imprison him again now.

"Mr. Einhorn is relieved because the decision leaves him a large degree of maneuver," one of his lawyers, Dominique Delteil, said after Judge Claude Arrighi read out the ruling.

He would have preferred a decision that would have made unnecessary the appeals we are going to make now, to win the war after losing this battle," Mr. Delteil said.

Mr. Einhorn, something of a counterculture guru in his Philadelphia days, jumped \$40,000 bail and disappeared in late 1980 or early 1981 as he was about



Ira Einhorn leaving the appeals court in Bordeaux on Thursday.

to go to trial for the 1977 murder of Miss Maddux, a Bryn Mawr alumna who had been his companion.

All he knew, he insisted, was that she had gone out shopping and never returned.

But a year and a half later, the police found her desiccated body stuffed into a steamer trunk in his apartment after neighbors complained about putrid odors and ceiling stains.

Recently, he has charged that the CIA or the KGB wanted to frame him because he had uncovered classified mind-control experiments.

UN Starts Drive To Wipe Out Most Blindness

The Associated Press

GENEVA — The United Nations renewed efforts Thursday against a range of visual disabilities, pledging to eliminate avoidable blindness around the world by the year 2020.

About 180 million people worldwide have less than one-third of normal vision, according to the World Health Organization. Between 40 million and 45 million of them are completely blind.

Cataracts, curable by surgery and accounting for almost half the world's blindness, are the prime target of WHO's "Vision 2020: The Right to Sight" initiative. About 20 million people are blind from the condition.

The UN agency identifies four other conditions, including trachoma and childhood blindness, as priorities.

About 60 percent of the world's blind live in sub-Saharan Africa, India and China, according to WHO.

Under the plan, WHO will work with independent development organizations to redouble efforts against blindness, concentrating on disease prevention, training and transferring technology to developing countries.

"Up to 80 percent of the world's blindness is avoidable," said the World Health Organization's director-general, Gro Harlem Brundtland of Norway. "If either results from the conditions that could have been prevented or can be successfully treated with the sight restored."

Blindness is rising as the world's population swells and ages and could double by 2020 at the present rate, she added. Vision 2020 aims to double the amount independent organizations spend on blindness prevention, from \$80 million a year.

It concentrates on problems where "an affordable and feasible intervention" can prevent or cure the problem, said Bjorn Thyflore, the WHO director of disability prevention and rehabilitation. The annual loss caused by preventable blindness worldwide has been estimated at \$25 billion, he said.

Trachoma, a painful infection that has blinded 6 million people in the poorest countries, is the most widespread preventable disease to be targeted.

Photon Torpor: Physicists Make Light Slower

By Malcolm W. Browne
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — When light travels through empty space, it zips along at a speed of 186,171 miles a second — the highest speed anything can attain, even in principle. A moonbeam takes only a little over one second to reach Earth.

But a Danish physicist and her team of collaborators have found a way to slow light down to about 38 miles an hour (61 kilometers an hour).

The physics team, headed by Dr. Lene Vestergaard Hau, who works concurrently at the Rowland Institute for Science in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and at Harvard University, expects soon to slow the pace of light still further, to a glacial 120 feet an hour — about the speed of a tortoise.

"We're getting the speed of light so low we

can almost send a beam into the system, go for a cup of coffee and return in time to see the light come out," Dr. Hau said in an interview.

The achievement, by Dr. Hau, two Harvard graduate students and Dr. Steve Harris of Stanford University, was reported on Thursday in the journal Nature. Physicists said it had many potential uses, not only as a tool for studying a very peculiar state of matter but also in optical computers, high-speed switches, communications systems, television displays and night-vision devices.

One of the most desirable features of the apparatus that the researchers built for their work is that it does not transfer heat from the laser light it uses to the ultracold medium on which the light shines. This could have an important stabilizing effect on the functioning of optical computers, which operate using photons of light instead of conventional elec-

trons. A switch using the system could be made so sensitive that it could be turned on or off by a single photon of light, Dr. Hau said.

The medium Dr. Hau and her colleagues used in slowing light by a factor of 20 million was a cluster of atoms called a "Bose-Einstein condensate" chilled to a temperature of only fifty-billionths of a degree above absolute zero. (Absolute zero is the temperature at which nothing can be colder. It is minus 273.15 degrees on the centigrade scale, minus 459.67 on the Fahrenheit scale and zero on the Kelvin scale.)

Dr. Hau's group reached an ultralow temperature in stages, using lasers to slow the atoms in a confined gas and then evaporating away the warmest remaining atoms. The temperature they attained, one of the lowest ever reached in a laboratory, was far lower than anything in nature, including the depths of space.

TRAVEL UPDATE

Newark Airport Is Worst for Delays

WASHINGTON (AP) — The airports in Newark, New Jersey, and San Francisco ranked first and second last year in flight delays. Newark International Airport had 31,924 delayed flights, or about 6.9 percent of its total traffic for 1998, according to Federal Aviation Administration data.

Moving to position No. 2 was San Francisco International, which had 29,409 delays, or 6.8 percent of its total. The airport was at No. 3 in 1997. Rounding out the five worst last year were O'Hare International in Chicago, Hartsfield International in Atlanta and LaGuardia Airport in New York.

Newark officials complained that they are paying the price for antiquated air traffic routing patterns that give preference to nearby LaGuardia and John F. Kennedy International. Federal and local officials are working on a plan to redesign the traffic patterns to better accommodate the traffic at Newark.

Snow Costs Swiss Tourism Industry

BERN (AP) — Chaos caused by heavy snowfall has led to losses estimated at more than 30 million Swiss francs (\$21 million) for the Swiss tourism industry so far this month, the industry newspaper reported Thursday.

Hotels, restaurants and ski resort operators found themselves cut off or without clients at the height of the winter sports season, the Hotel and Tourismus Revue noted. More snow fell on the Swiss Alps on Wednesday and Thursday.

Luxembourg, worried about weekend protests by Kurds and European Union farmers at home and in neighboring Belgium, temporarily closed its borders Thursday, reverting to passport checks for anyone entering the Grand Duchy. (AP)

Europe

	High	Low	High	Low
Algeria	19/28	11/12	20/28	10/20
Austria	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Belgium	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Denmark	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
France	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Germany	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Greece	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Ireland	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Italy	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Japan	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
South Korea	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Spain	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Sweden	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Switzerland	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Turkey	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
U.K.	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
U.S.	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11

North America

	High	Low	High	Low
Alaska	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Arizona	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
California	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Colorado	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Connecticut	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Delaware	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
District of Columbia	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Florida	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Georgia	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Hawaii	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Idaho	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Illinois	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Indiana	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Iowa	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Kansas	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Kentucky	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Louisiana	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Maine	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Maryland	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Massachusetts	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Michigan	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Minnesota	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Mississippi	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Missouri	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Montana	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Nebraska	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Nevada	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
New Hampshire	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
New Jersey	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
New Mexico	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
New York	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
North Carolina	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
North Dakota	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Ohio	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Oklahoma	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Oregon	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Pennsylvania	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Rhode Island	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
South Carolina	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
South Dakota	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Tennessee	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Texas	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Vermont	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Virginia	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Washington	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
West Virginia	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Wisconsin	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Wyoming	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11

Asia

	High	Low	High	Low
Algeria	19/28	11/12	20/28	10/20
Austria	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Belgium	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Denmark	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
France	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Germany	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Greece	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Ireland	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Italy	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Japan	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
South Korea	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Spain	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Sweden	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Switzerland	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Turkey	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
U.K.	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
U.S.	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11

Africa

	Italy		Tanzania	
	High	Low	High	Low
Algeria	9/48	9/25	11/52	29/30
Austria	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Belgium	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Denmark	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
France	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Germany	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Greece	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Ireland	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Italy	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Japan	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Kenya	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Madagascar	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Mali	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Morocco	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Nigeria	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Poland	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Portugal	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Romania	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Spain	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Sweden	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Switzerland	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Tunisia	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Uganda	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
U.S.A.	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
U.S.S.R.	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Yugoslavia	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Zambia	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Zimbabwe	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
South Africa	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Botswana	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Lesotho	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Malawi	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
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Switzerland	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
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Turkey	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Uganda	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
U.S.A.	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
U.S.S.R.	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Yugoslavia	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11
Zambia	12/18	4/10	13/19	5/11</

THE AMERICAS

To Some Republicans, Keeping Impeachment an Issue Is a Point of Honor

By Richard L. Berke
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — As many Republicans struggle to move beyond impeachment, they find their party fractured by a hard reality: Many other Republicans, particularly conservatives, do not want to move beyond impeachment.

Those frustrated by months of polling that showed impeachment hurting Republicans' standing with the public hoped that President Bill Clinton's acquittal would give them an opportunity to change the subject. But a vocal minority is pressing forward, in as public a manner as possible, with the argument that Mr. Clinton should be held accountable for his conduct.

These Republicans do not think they are committing political suicide. Sooner or later, they contend, voters will punish Democrats for the Lewinsky scandal. They say that the president's poll ratings

have been artificially high and could fall once people put the impeachment saga in perspective, or if another scandal shakes the White House.

For example, the Senate majority leader, Trent Lott, has predicted that public sentiment could change dramatically as voters — hungry for politicians of moral character — reward Republicans in the 2000 elections for taking on Mr. Clinton.

Craig Shirley, a veteran conservative public relations operative, summed up the argument: "It would be horrible to run away from the Clinton scandals because you are giving up something that is important to the base of the Republican Party — and you're suggesting that we were somehow wrong in going after Clinton."

The Republicans' apparent impeachment albatross has delighted White House advisers, who vow to cast the Republican Party as controlled by extremists who are bent on prolonging the

impeachment ordeal. "There's an opportunity for a national message against the Republican Party," said Mark Penn, the president's pollster. "That it is too extreme, and its leadership is too far to the right. And that national message could have a lot of impact come 2000."

Mr. Penn scoffed at the notion advanced by Mr. Lott and others that Mr. Clinton's approval ratings might sag. "If you were a Martian and you came down and just read the polls, you would not know that the Monica Lewinsky scandal existed," he said, "because he was in good shape before, during and after because the public fundamentally separated this issue from his performance as president."

There are also many Republicans who fear that the ghost of impeachment could haunt and define the party. Many party leaders, including several governors, seem terrified that the Democrats could seize on the party's handling of impeachment to win back Congress.

Dave Carney, a longtime Republican strategist in New Hampshire, was almost testy in his advising party members to let go of impeachment.

"The Republicans who are fixated on this, these people need to get a life," he said. "I don't know what drug treatment they need. I don't know what psychotherapy they need. But the country's moved beyond this. What about free trade? Crime in the streets? Kosovo? There are other issues out there."

Governor Edward Schafer of North Dakota, a Republican, put it this way: "I don't think you use it as a weapon. You don't say, 'Oh, there's a Democratic candidate and they're a member of the party that lied and cheated and then acquitted the perpetrator.' There's going to be an underlying issue of what the president did wrong. But we should point to the positive aspects of our candidates."

Yet a looming trouble spot as Republicans try to hold on to their control of Congress and regain the White House

in 2000 is not that voters will lash out at the party's candidates — but that the issue will make it much easier for Democrats to raise money and recruit prospects.

Governor Paul Cellucci of Massachusetts, a Republican, said his party had to be especially aggressive in countering the Democrats' recruitment drives. "For the Republican Party at the state level to succeed, I think we need a national message," he said. In 1998, he added, the party was "consumed with this impeachment thing; they weren't even out there advocating tax cuts."

Compounding the potential perils for Republicans is that even with Newt Gingrich gone as speaker, there are still Republicans in Congress at center stage who were vociferous proponents of impeachment, such as Representatives Tom DeLay of Texas, the majority whip, and Henry Hyde of Illinois, chairman of the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. DeLay's constituents, in fact, are

encouraging his continued attacks on Mr. Clinton. Next month he will be honored with the 1999 Political Courage Award at the Harris County Republican Party's Lincoln Day Dinner.

The drive to keep impeachment alive is also being fueled the most by politicians with the most conservative constituents.

Ed Brookover, who stepped down after the November elections as political director of the National Republican Congressional Committee, said his party faced a classic dilemma of whether to appeal to the outspoken conservatives whose support can be crucial in primaries — or whether to appeal to the broader, general electorate.

"There's always the constant argument inside the party, whether you play to the base or play to the middle," Mr. Brookover said. "A winning campaign figures out how to do both. But I don't know if we've yet landed on a winning way."



LENTEN RACE — Karen Crowe of Lawrence, Kansas, watching the flapjack in a copy of the annual race between Olney, England, and Liberal, Kansas.

AMERICAN TOPICS

Calvin Klein Billboard Ignites New Foray in the Culture Wars

Anyone who believes that the end of President Bill Clinton's impeachment trial also marked the end of America's "culture wars" should think again.

In New York, a dispute exploded this week over a huge Times Square billboard that was to have been unveiled Thursday. As previewed in newspapers, it was to show two small boys, wearing only boxers and briefs, romping happily on a couch. It meant to show children "smiling, laughing and just being themselves," said Robert Treifus, a spokesman for the advertiser, Calvin Klein.

Not so, said representatives of several conservative groups, it was more like pedophile-friendly porn. "You can envision this photograph taken by accident, an innocent photo taken by a mom," said Robert Peters, president of Morality in Media. "But at Calvin Klein, nothing is innocent."

Amid the adverse reaction, the company pulled the ad campaign the night before it was to have been unveiled. That might ease the dilemma of Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, who has fought against porn shops and peep shows in New York but who said that the ad was protected by constitutional guarantees of free expression.

Meanwhile, at the offices of the state legislature in Annapolis, Maryland, a state painting of a discreetly posed male nude, his arm and knee carefully obscuring his mid-section, has been removed after employees complained. "We want all the controversy to take place in the committee rooms," said a building supervisor, and not in the hallways.

Short Takes

Americans are dining out more than ever, as their spreading waistlines confirm. Restaurant food accounted for 39 percent of U.S. meals bought in 1996, up from 26 percent in 1970, the Agriculture Department says in a new report. People have become more nutrition-conscious in general, and restaurant food has followed that trend. Still, it tends to be far less healthful than home-cooking: It contains too much fat and not enough calcium, fiber and iron.

The country's first self-salting bridges are being tested in western Pennsylvania. They use electronic sensors to check the weather and, in icy conditions, they automatically spray road surfaces with liquid magnesium chloride to prevent freezing. The price to equip three bridges with the European technology: \$550,000.

This year marks the 200th anniversary of the death of George Washington, and historians have mounted several commemorative shows in a bid to portray the first president's true character. An exhibition at Mount Vernon, his Virginia home, shows that he was a handsome man with a flirtatious side. A letter from a colonel's wife to her sister says Washington could "be downright impudent sometimes — such impudence, Fanny, as you and I like!" He also had a temper. The portraitist Gilbert Stuart remarked: "Had he been born in the forests, he would have been the fiercest man among the savage tribes."

Washington has long been the subject of myth. Most notable is the tale in which boy George tells his father he "cannot tell a lie" about who chopped down a cherry tree. That story is updated in a New Yorker cartoon on display at an exhibition in New York. The cartoon shows young Washington standing by a fallen tree, telling his father, "It all depends on how you define 'chop.'"

Brian Knowlton

Unions Make Political Activities a 2-Year Effort

By Frank Swoboda
Washington Post Service

MIAMI BEACH — Leaders of the AFL-CIO have approved spending \$46 million to keep political operatives in the field over the next two years in an attempt to win back Democratic control of the House of Representatives in the 2000 elections.

The two-year effort will focus on 40 to 60 key congressional districts in about 20 states, union strategists said. The effort marks the first time the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations has not disbanded its political operations after an election cycle.

Labor, which traditionally supports Democrats, will also aim to build up union support in California and six eastern and midwestern states that

also could prove pivotal to any Democratic presidential candidate.

"We're trying to keep our people mobilized and engaged for the year 2000," said Gerald McEntee, president of the million-member American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees and the chairman of the federation's political committee. A cadre of paid activists in targeted congressional districts will concentrate on bringing union households to the polls by organizing get-out-the-vote efforts, setting up voter registration drives and running issue advocacy campaigns.

Republicans hold only a six-seat majority in the House, and labor officials meeting here at the annual midwinter meeting of the AFL-CIO Executive Council felt the momentum that helped Democrats win five seats

in 1998 would be lost if field personnel were pulled back. After previous elections, the political operations "would go flat on us" and a year later labor would have to rebuild, Mr. McEntee said.

The House minority leader, Richard Gephardt, Democrat of Missouri, who recently decided to forgo a presidential race in order to concentrate on winning back Democratic control in the House, endorsed the plan after meeting for nearly an hour with the council. Mr. Gephardt, who probably would become speaker if Democrats win the House, said past get-out-the-vote efforts have come much too late in the campaign cycle. "The get-out-the-vote effort needs to be the whole two years," he said.

Mr. McEntee said labor's goal is to duplicate its effort in California last

year, when unions beat back a ballot initiative to restrict labor's political spending and helped elect Democratic Governor Gray Davis.

AFL-CIO officials came up with the idea of the two-year, election-cycle budget during a retreat last month that focused on the 2000 election.

By keeping their political activists fully mobilized throughout the two years, the leadership said, labor also would be in a better position to help rally opposition to any effort to cut Social Security benefits.

Although AFL-CIO officials would not give an official estimate of the size of the new two-year budget for its political operations, officials familiar with the spending plan said it would be roughly double the \$21.5 million the federation spent in the 1998 elections.

Clinton Won't Contest Judge

By Peter Baker
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — President Bill Clinton will not ask a federal judge, who is considering whether to find him in contempt of court, to step aside because he spoke with the prosecution team during his impeachment trial in the Senate, according to sources informed about the decision.

Mr. Clinton's attorney, Robert Bennett, filed a short document on Wednesday with the court in Little Rock, Arkansas, informing U.S. District Judge Susan Webber Wright that he would not seek her recusal.

The move permits Judge Wright to conduct an inquiry into whether President Clinton should face civil sanctions for giving misleading testimony about his affair with Monica Lewinsky, which he gave in the Paula Jones sexual assault lawsuit against Mr. Clinton.

On Tuesday, Judge Wright told Mr. Ben-

nett and other attorneys involved in the Jones case that she would explore a contempt citation against Mr. Clinton now that his impeachment trial was over. That could lead to a full hearing about whether he was being completely truthful when he denied during a Jan. 17, 1998, deposition that he had never had sexual relations with Ms. Lewinsky.

Representative Asa Hutchinson, Republican of Arkansas, called Judge Wright last month asking her to testify at the impeachment trial. The judge refused but allowed her clerk to file an affidavit about Mr. Clinton's deposition during his deposition.

In deciding not to challenge Judge Wright, the Clinton legal team opted to take its chances with a known quantity.

Although she has already telegraphed her predisposition by raising the contempt issue, without being asked, Judge Wright has ruled in Mr. Clinton's favor in the past, including her dismissal of the Jones suit last April because she found it lacked legal merit.

Shots Kill Ecuador Leftist

Reuters

QUITO, Ecuador — Gunmen shot and killed a leftist Ecuadorian legislator, his nephew and a bodyguard moments after the three walked out of Congress.

Congressman Jaime Hurtado, a member of the opposition Popular Democratic Movement, and the two others were gunned down Wednesday 100 meters from Congress in the center of the capital, Quito.

Interior Minister Vladimir Alvarez condemned the attack and rejected an accusation by a Popular Demo-

cratic Movement official that the government of President Jamil Mahuad was behind the killing of Mr. Hurtado, who was a staunch opponent.

"We aren't going to respond to that type of accusation made under the influence of emotion," Mr. Alvarez said. "This isn't a case that just affects Jaime's fellow party members, it affects the whole country."

Luis Villacis, a member of the Popular Democratic Movement, said earlier, "This government isn't just starving us to death, it's murdering our leaders."

The three gunmen ran off and escaped in the crowd, the police said. Mr. Hurtado, 52, and his nephew lived long enough to be taken to a hospital before dying of their wounds.

Mr. Hurtado had close links to the unions involved in strikes and other protests against the austere economic policies of Mr. Mahuad.

Quito is undergoing an increase in violent crime. More than 60 percent of the Andean nation's 12 million inhabitants live below the poverty line, according to official data.

Away From Politics

• Operators of 1,000 older Boeing 727s must inspect aircraft skin joints for fatigue cracking and make any necessary repairs, the Federal Aviation Administration ordered. (AP)

• Eleven Western states with a high incidence of hepatitis A have been urged to require that children be vaccinated. (AP)

• Maryland's highest court overturned a ruling giving a woman who admitted killing her infant daughter custody of her son. A lower court was told to determine whether the boy was in danger of abuse if sent to his mother. (AP)

• A shopkeeper whose store has been picketed since he displayed a poster of the late Vietnamese leader, Ho Chi Minh, has been ordered by his landlord in Westminster, California, to move out or face legal action over insurance issues. (AP)

Argentina Seeks to Halt Illegal Aliens

By Clifford Krauss
New York Times Service

BUENOS AIRES — With the economy slowing and street crime rising, President Carlos Saul Menem has introduced a series of bills to Congress to stem the flow of illegal immigration from Bolivia, Paraguay and Peru.

Congressional debate on the legislation has not yet begun, but the bills have already created tensions between Argentina and its poorer neighbors. And they have prompted criticism from the hierarchy of the Roman Catholic Church and human-rights groups that the government is unleashing a xenophobic campaign to make scapegoats out of poor, defenseless people.

But by raising an issue with widespread appeal, the ruling Justicialist Party may succeed in putting the opposition on the defensive in a presidential election year.

The debate over the bills also highlights the growing rate of migration of peasants and workers across borders throughout South America, raising a potentially potent and divisive issue not only in Argentina, but also in Chile, Uruguay and Venezuela.

The new laws would impose fines of up to \$500,000 on individuals or companies who employ illegal aliens. They would give the interior minister the power to deport any alien sentenced to more than two years in prison. Anyone arrested for helping foreigners enter the country illegally would be subject to prison sentences of 5 to 20 years.

Statistics about illegal immigration here are imprecise, and the government and private groups disagree on the dimensions of the problem.

But experts seem to agree that Argentina has recently seen an increase in the immigration of poor Bolivians.

'What they are trying to do is blame our social problems on the immigrants' — mostly peasants and the poor from other South American countries.

Paraguayans and Peruvians, a practice that started at least 30 years ago. Some analysts have estimated that up to 1 million Peruvians live outside Peru, mainly in the United States, Argentina and Chile.

According to the latest Argentine census figures, the number of Paraguayans here increased from 154,000 in 1960 to 250,000 in 1991. In that period, the number of Peruvians increased from 5,100 to 16,000.

Experts say the trend is accelerating as the regional economy slows in response to the East Asian and Brazilian financial crises.

In the northern provinces, migrants frequently do backbreaking work like picking cotton and strawberries. In the

cities they shine shoes and do other odd jobs. The alien migrants are rarely unionized, and they are generally paid much less than Argentines.

An opposition congressman, Juan Pablo Cafiero, has called the move to tighten immigration laws "a racist campaign." He added, "What they are trying to do is blame our social problems on the immigrants."

According to Mr. Cafiero, the 70,000 or so immigrants in the Buenos Aires metropolitan region make up less than 2 percent of the workforce, so they cannot be blamed for an unemployment rate that has risen slightly over the last month after decreasing under the previous year. He said 2.5 percent of those found guilty of crimes were foreigners.

In explaining the need for the new legislation, Hugo Franco, a senior official in charge of immigration control, said the government was merely interested in "protecting legal immigration and fighting illegality."

Officials said at least 60 percent of those arrested for petty crimes in Buenos Aires in recent months were foreigners. Critics contend that estimate and note that foreigners make up a much smaller percentage of the prison population.

Bolivia's president, Hugo Banzer, has publicly expressed concerns that the new proposals will generate anti-Bolivian feelings and asked for guarantees that the rights of Bolivian immigrants will be respected.

"We want Argentine authorities to prevent abuses and deportations," Mr. Banzer said.

POLITICAL NOTES

Senator Smith Launches Bid

WOLFEBORO, New Hampshire — Senator Bob Smith of New Hampshire says he stands with the little guy, paying no attention to pundits and pollsters. As he announced Thursday that he was seeking the Republican presidential nomination he promised, "It's not going to be a campaign for the faint of heart."

In remarks prepared for the announcement at Kingswood Regional High School, where he once taught civics, he mentioned two ships — the Mayflower and the Titanic — to describe his vision for the nation. The Pilgrims on the Mayflower followed their compass and founded a new nation, he said, while the Titanic crew went off course, hit an iceberg and sank.

"I am asking all of you to join me today to chart the right course for America and sail safely into the 21st century with a commitment to keep America strong and free for millions yet unborn," he said. "We have the charts — the Constitution, the Declaration of Independence and the Holy Bible. We need a captain and a crew who will read those charts, and steer us past the sea of icebergs that threaten our God-given rights." (AP)

New Gas and Emission Rules

WASHINGTON — The Environmental Protection Agency has decided to propose a set of tough new rules that would require light trucks and sport-utility vehicles for the first time to meet the same stringent emission standards as cars, according to sources who have been briefed on the plan.

The proposed rules would also require oil companies to produce cleaner gasoline.

The new rules, which would take effect in 2004, are designed to create huge improvements in air quality, according to environmentalists. Cleaner gasoline alone should be the equivalent of taking 54 million cars off the road, said William Becker, executive director of a national association of state and local air pollution officials.

The EPA proposals, if adopted, could also reduce acid rain and diminish the amounts of harmful toxins and particulates in the air. (WP)

Quote/Unquote

Mayor Rudolph Giuliani of New York City on the possibility of a campaign against Hillary Rodham Clinton for a U.S. Senate seat in New York: "The idea of a race like this is kind of intriguing. I mean, it would be a very important race nationally. It would contrast two very different philosophies of governing, and it'd be an interesting race." (NYT)

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Obscure Island Prison Is Placed in the Spotlight of Ocalan Drama

By Stephen Kinzer
New York Times Service

ISTANBUL — Turks turned their eyes on Thursday toward a small island in the Sea of Marmara where the country's most hated man is being held prisoner.

The island, called Imrali, was until Tuesday a largely unknown place. The main building there serves as an open prison to which pickpockets and other petty criminals are sent to serve sentences under the loose vigilance of friendly guards.

All of that has now changed. On Tuesday, the principal Kurdish guerrilla leader, Abdullah Ocalan, was taken to Imrali. He had been living clandestinely in Kenya under the protection of Greek diplomats until he was seized by Turkish commandos in a spectacular operation

Monday night. Other prisoners who had been living on Imrali were quickly moved to other prisons, places where there are no sea breezes and no views of passing freighters.

Mr. Ocalan, 51, was placed in an isolation cell.

Naval patrol boats have been deployed around Imrali, which lies 56 kilometers (35 miles) southwest of Istanbul. Military helicopters patrolled in wide circles overhead.

Prosecutors arrived on the island Thursday morning to begin their interrogation of Mr. Ocalan. "It can continue for at most seven days," Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit told an interviewer in Ankara. "but I'm sure the questioning may end before that time."

Mr. Ocalan is likely to be tried for treason and other crimes that carry the death sentence.

There have been no executions in Turkey since 1984.

Officials of the Justice Ministry said Mr. Ocalan's first hearing before a judge could come in the next two weeks, though his trial will probably not begin for several months. They said all judicial proceedings would be held at Imrali.

Television stations showed footage of Mr. Ocalan at Imrali on Thursday. He was standing before two Turkish flags, and at one point complained about the bright television lights being shined at him.

As Mr. Ocalan was undergoing his first interrogation, Turkey pressed its fight against Kurdish nationalists' on military and political fronts.

A spokesman for the Turkish Army said soldiers killed five members of Mr. Ocalan's rebel force near the eastern town of Tunceli.

"The terrorists are in a state of panic

and don't know what to do," the spokesman said. Soldiers also struck guerrilla sanctuaries in northern Iraq.

Several thousand of them entered Iraqi territory on Wednesday, and on Thursday they pounded targets there with missiles fired from American-made Cobra attack helicopters.

Turkish police raided offices of the legal People's Democracy Party, which is mainly Kurdish, and homes of party members in Istanbul and eastern provinces. According to human rights advocates, several hundred people were arrested. Prosecutors are seeking to ban the party on charges that it functions as an arm of the guerrilla movement.

Other Kurds were arrested in Istanbul after a night of disturbances in several neighborhoods, during which windows were smashed, firebombs thrown and cars attacked.

News reports from Kenya on Thursday suggested that the American and Israeli secret services had helped Turkish agents capture Mr. Ocalan.

The United States has denied direct involvement and Israeli officials said they were not involved in any way.

"There was no Israeli role whatsoever," said Eli Shaked, the Israeli consul in Istanbul. "Unfortunately this has not been clear to some people."

The European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg reported that it had received a complaint from Mr. Ocalan's lawyers charging that the Turkish authorities were violating his rights to be tried fairly and protected from torture. It said the lawyers had asked the court to take "emergency steps" to protect him, but gave no indication of whether it would seek to do so.

At the same time, a pro-Ocalan group called the Kurdish Parliament in Exile urged Western countries to create an international court to try him, rather than allowing Turkey to do so.

At a news conference in Brussels, a leader of the group, Zuber Aydar, also called for "an international conference, including Kurdish representatives, to discuss the Kurdish question, just as they have set up an international conference to resolve the Kosovo question."

Turkish officials rejected these and other suggestions that an established or new international body should take a role in judging Mr. Ocalan or dealing with the situation of Kurds in Turkey. "I do not see what more can be done," Foreign Minister Ismail Cem said. "Turkey has as developed a legal system as any other Western country. We intend to act according to our present prosecution system."

No Kosovo Air Strikes, Yeltsin Warns NATO

By David Hoffman
Washington Post Service

MOSCOW — President Boris Yeltsin on Thursday vowed not to permit the use of force by NATO warplanes if the Kosovo peace talks fail.

Mr. Yeltsin said he had conveyed his warning in writing and by telephone to President Bill Clinton, but the White House said it had not communicated with the Kremlin recently.

Mr. Yeltsin, making a rare public appearance for a one-day Kremlin meeting with leaders of the European Union, was asked to comment on U.S. plans to move 51 additional warplanes to Europe for possible air strikes against Serbian forces if the plan for a peacekeeping force in Kosovo was not accepted by Saturday.

"I gave my opinion, both in writing and on the phone to Clinton, that it won't work," Mr. Yeltsin said. "This is all. This is our whole reply. We will not allow Kosovo to be touched." He did

not say how Russia might respond. But soon after the ailing Russian leader spoke, the White House cast doubt on his statement that he had been in touch with Mr. Clinton.

"The Russian position is long held," said a White House spokesman, P.J. Crowley. "What is confusing us is there has not been a telephone call or written communication between the two presidents in recent days."

Another White House spokesman, Joe Lockhart, said that the United States had worked closely with Russia on the Kosovo conflict but that "we reserve the right to act in NATO's self-interest if that's necessary. And we will if we don't get the conclusion we need at the peace talks."

Such a discrepancy about a high-level communication between Moscow and Washington is unusual. Russian officials offered no clarification of the remarks by Mr. Yeltsin, who has been recovering from a bleeding ulcer.

His spokesman, Dmitri Yakushkin, said Mr. Yeltsin later reiterated to the European Union leaders "the thoughts that he had expressed in the message to Bill Clinton that he mentioned in front of the journalists."

Russia has long expressed support for the Yugoslav president, Slobodan Milosevic, and has repeatedly warned against the use of force in Kosovo, the predominantly ethnically Albanian province where rebels are battling for independence from Serbia.

Mr. Milosevic has resisted a six-nation plan to insert 28,000 North Atlantic Treaty Organization peacekeepers into the province, including 4,000 U.S. troops pledged by Mr. Clinton.

The negotiations between Yugoslavia and the Kosovo fighters were continuing in Rambouillet, France, under the mediation of the six-nation Contact Group made up of the United States, Russia, France, Britain, Germany and Italy.

Alexander Lebed, the former Russian general and now governor of Krasnoyarsk, said the military buildup in advance of Saturday's deadline "is the cost of the unipolar world."

He added, "When a superpower behaves like a drunk brawler in a kindergarten, the result is pitiful."

In a separate meeting on Thursday with the Russian foreign minister, Igor Ivanov, the German foreign minister, Joschka Fischer, said Mr. Milosevic was "a catastrophe for his country" and was making it difficult to reach a solution that would keep Kosovo a part of Yugoslavia.

If Mr. Milosevic continues on his present course, he added, "In the long run this will bring about a secession of Kosovo."

If Kosovo is not given some autonomy now under international control, he added, a "bloody war" is likely and "Kosovo will most certainly break away from Yugoslavia. Whether the West likes it or not, it won't matter any more. But the question is how many victims it will take."

Mr. Ivanov said that if a peace deal was struck in the Kosovo negotiations, Russia would consider contributing to a peacekeeping force. If the talks fail, he said, the only alternative was for another meeting of the Contact Group to look for a political settlement.

"There can be no other way of settlement in Kosovo," he said.



President Boris Yeltsin stressing a point at a Kremlin meeting Thursday with Chancellor Gerhard Schröder.

Yeltsin, at Work, Meets Schroeder and EU Chief

The Associated Press

MOSCOW — President Boris Yeltsin came out of seclusion to greet the visiting German chancellor and the top European Union official Thursday, but the talks produced no agreements and no new aid was discussed.

"Russia and the European Union are strategic partners," Mr. Yeltsin told his guests in the Kremlin's Catherine Hall. "Regrettably, we aren't a member of the European Union, but we have partner relations helping us to cooperate more closely."

Chancellor Gerhard Schröder, who holds the rotating EU presidency, and Jacques Santer, head of the European Union's Executive Commission, used the meeting to get an inside view

of the Kremlin's strategy of dealing with Russia's economic crisis.

Mr. Yeltsin, 68, has suffered from a host of illnesses and continues to spend most of his time at a residence in a forest outside Moscow.

During the meeting Thursday, Mr. Yeltsin spoke loudly and clearly, and appeared to be recovering.

Mr. Yeltsin, Mr. Schröder and Mr. Santer discussed a "partnership" with the EU, calling it a "fundamental factor of peace and stability on the European continent."

They specifically discussed projects to build a new natural gas pipeline and modernize several key highways linking Russia with Europe.

Innuendo Revives Swiss Guard Case

By Alessandra Stanley
New York Times Service

ROME — When the Vatican last week closed its investigation into the killing of the commander of the Swiss Guards by one of his junior officers, it hoped the concluding report would finally settle the scandal to rest.

It didn't. The grieving relatives of the slain Swiss Guard commander, Alois Estermann, and his wife, Gladys Meza Romero, who was killed at his side, issued a four-page letter on Wednesday addressed to journalists and distributed by the Vatican press office. The letter sought to shame the Italian press and implore the media to stop printing rumors about the couple's marriage, but is likely instead to draw still more attention to the case.

The letter rejected "categorically" recent media reports mostly prompted by coverage of a new book, "God's Word, Gay Word," a roman à clef about the love affair of a senior officer in the Swiss Guards and one of his subalterns, inspired by Lieutenant Colonel Estermann, 43, and the corporal, Cedric Torny, 23, who shot him and his wife and then killed himself.

"We do not accept the slightest suspicion about presumed hypotheses about tormented love stories or espionage with which some have tried to stain Alois," the letter said. "We would be grateful if people would stop adding to the pain that we feel."

Since the killings nine months ago, the Vatican has tried hard to dispel rumors that it was a crime of passion or the result of some other scandal.

Last May, a few days after the killings occurred, a few Italian newspapers printed stories based on a far-fetched rumor that Colonel Estermann was an East German spy, but that line of speculation died right away.

In their final report last week, Vatican investigators said Corporal Torny carried out the killings when he became disgruntled after being passed over for a decoration. They also said that traces of cannabis had been found in his urine, as well as a cyst the size of a pigeon egg in his brain that could have impaired his judgment.

But at the presentation of the new book, the author, Massimo Lacchei, said that a year before the murders he had attended a private brunch at the home of an elderly and important gay politician, where Colonel Estermann and Corporal Torny were also guests. He said they were lovers, and said he had doubts about the Vatican version of events.

Instantly, Italian newspapers and other publications published stories about the theory that Colonel Estermann and Corporal Torny were gay lovers.

Maria Meza Romero, a younger sister of the commander's wife, said she had seen news reports about the rumors in Venezuela, and came to Rome this week with her sisters to meet with Colonel

Estermann's survivors and compose a joint letter.

"At first, we paid no attention to these news stories, but then they started up again recently, with such lies and perversion," Ms. Meza Romero said. "We decided we had to do it — none of the people who wrote about my sister and my brother-in-law had the slightest knowledge of them as a couple. If they did, they wouldn't write such unjust, false accusations."

Mr. Lacchei now says he, too, feels like a victim, claiming that Italian reporters distorted his words and made up quotes.

"If I were a relative of Estermann or Torny, I would be furious, too," he said. "The Italian press is so irresponsible."

But Mr. Lacchei did not retract his claims or say anything that might reassure the survivors. He said he had no proof that the two Swiss Guards were lovers, but that their presence at the gay brunch, and behavior there, certainly made him think so.

In the Wednesday issue of the newspaper La Repubblica, Mr. Lacchei's lawyer wrote a letter laying out what his client had, in fact, said. It included Mr. Lacchei's assertion that Colonel Estermann was a frequent visitor at the elderly politician's gay salon, and brought Corporal Torny, who might have been killed because "he knew too much, had met too many important people."

3 Greeks Lose Ministries Over Kurdish Affair

The Associated Press

ATHENS — Disgraced after failing to protect Abdullah Ocalan, the Kurdish rebel leader captured by Turkey, the government of Greece took dramatic steps for survival Thursday, dismissing three cabinet ministers and lashing back at an ultranationalistic clique accused of dragging Greece into the affair.

Resignations were demanded for the foreign minister, Theodoros Pangalos, and the interior minister, Alekos Papadopoulos, for their central roles in a mission in Kenya that ended with Mr. Ocalan in the custody of Greece's long-time arch-rival, Turkey.

Also dropped was the public order minister, Philippos Patsalnikos, whose ministry controls the security forces that failed to prevent a small group of Kurdish sympathizers from smuggling Mr. Ocalan into Greece last month.

To replace Mr. Pangalos, Prime Minister Costas Simitis promoted Deputy Foreign Minister George Papandreou, the American-born son of Greece's former Socialist patriarch, Andreas Papandreou.

Vassio Papandreou — she is not related to George Papandreou — was made minister of the interior, moving from the Development Ministry, and her deputy there, Michalis Chrysoschoidis, was appointed public order minister.

Mr. Ocalan's clandestine entry to Greece, allegedly orchestrated by a retired naval officer, began a chain of events that saddled the government with an issue it desperately hoped to avoid — direct involvement in helping Mr. Ocalan and his Kurdish Workers Party.

The government had long feared that hosting Mr. Ocalan could ignite war with Turkey, which regards him as its most wanted terrorist. His organization has fought for autonomy in southeastern Turkey for 15 years in a conflict that has taken more than 37,000 lives.

In the end, however, Turkey ended up with Mr. Ocalan and the government of Prime Minister Simitis was left humiliated and buffeted by seemingly limitless outrage.

Many Greeks identify with Mr. Ocalan as a modern embodiment of the Greeks who fought Ottoman Turkish rule in the 19th century.

Mr. Simitis hoped to stop the barrage of criticism by the cabinet reshuffle. He is also deeply worried about any festering problems that could derail Greece from its main objective — entry into the European Union's single-currency group by 2001.

It is unlikely the political crisis will be strong enough to topple Mr. Simitis's government, which has 163 seats in the 300-member Parliament.

Kenya Ousts a Top Official

The government of Kenya dismissed its top immigration official Thursday, after he contradicted the foreign minister by saying Kenya had played a key role in the Turkey's capture of Mr. Ocalan, Reuters reported from Nairobi.

Frank Kwinga, the principal immigration officer, angered senior government officials Wednesday when he said Kenyan officials had physically put Mr. Ocalan on a flight out of Kenya on Monday.

Mr. Kwinga was offered no other position in a government reshuffle announced Thursday afternoon.

Embassies in Prague Close, Citing Security

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

PRAGUE — The United States Embassy, the British Embassy and the American Center in Prague were closed to the public Thursday for unspecified security reasons.

The Czech news agency CTK said the closures were the result of an Iraqi terrorist threat.

Police stepped up their guard of the embassies and the Prague headquarters of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, which broadcasts programs aimed at listeners in Iraq and Iran.

Several embassies in Prague including those of the United States, Israel, Turkey and Greece have demanded extra protection this week because of Kurdish protests following the capture of the Kurdish rebel leader, Abdullah Ocalan. (AP, AFP)

Train Crash in Bavaria Claims at Least 2 Lives

Reuters

IMMENSTADT, Germany — Two passengers were killed and 22 others were injured when two trains collided in southern Germany on Thursday, German state railroad said.

The collision occurred when the last two cars of an express train went off the rails and hit a regional train traveling in the opposite direction at 11 A.M. at the approach to the Bavarian town of Immenstadt, the railroad said.

A woman was pulled dead from the wreckage, and a male passenger died later in a hospital. At least eight people were reported to be seriously injured.

Local police said the express train was traveling from Oberstdorf, close to the Austrian border, to the industrial city of Dortmund in northwestern Germany.

The state railroad came under increased scrutiny last year, when 101 people died in a crash in Eschede. It was Germany's worst postwar rail disaster.

BRIEFLY

Brussels to Face Farmer Protest

BRUSSELS — As many as 30,000 farmers are expected to cause chaos in central Brussels on Monday to protest proposals to change the European Union's farm policy.

The demonstration, expected to draw farmers from all over the 15-nation EU, is likely to be one of the biggest in years in the Belgian capital, the center of much of the EU's bureaucracy. EU farm ministers are to meet in Brussels on Monday for what is expected to be a crucial debate. Germany, the current EU president, is pushing for an accord on plans to cut prices paid for agricultural products to make farmers more competitive and curb reliance on export subsidies. The farmers fear that huge income cuts will result from the measures.

European Court Assails Britain

STRASBOURG — The European Court of Human Rights condemned Britain on Thursday for denying citizens of its Gibraltar colony the right to vote for the European Parliament and failing to give soldiers a fair court-martial. In the first of the separate cases, the court said EU legislation affected citizens of Gibraltar, at the southern tip of Spain, who should therefore be entitled to elect members of the EU Parliament in Strasbourg. Under British law, only citizens of the United Kingdom may take part in the

European elections. The court said this violated the European human-rights convention.

In the second case, Britain was ordered to pay costs to 36 soldiers who were court-martialed in the early 1990s on various disciplinary charges. The plaintiffs argued that the officer summoning the court-martial was linked to both the prosecution and the hierarchical chief of the judges and that therefore the trial was not fair.

Crete Will Get Russian Missiles

MOSCOW — The defense minister of Cyprus signed an agreement Thursday allowing Russia to shift Russian-made air-defense missiles to the Greek island of Crete, the Interfax news agency said Thursday.

Cyprus canceled a plan to receive the S-300 missiles in December after Turkey threatened military strikes to prevent their deployment. Turkish leaders also disapprove of the new plan, saying they believe the missiles' presence will tilt the balance of power in the area.

For the Record

Two people were missing and two were injured by a snowslide Thursday at a ski resort in France's Jura mountains near the Swiss border. Rescuers were on the scene near Pontarlier.

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INTERMARKET
See Page 15

Authority in Kosovo

The West initially said that if Mr. Milosevic did not sign the agreement, NATO would bomb selected Serbian military targets until he did. That threat must be carried out if need be. Peace in Kosovo can work only if it is clear that NATO, and not Mr. Milosevic, is in charge.

A Lockerbie Deal

First proposed by Libya several years ago, the idea of a trial in a neutral country under Scottish law was ac-

Clinton and Contempt

It would not, unlike impeachment, remove him from office — an outcome that seemed too dire given the specific circumstances of this case. It also would not, unlike an indictment by Mr. Starr, prove a great distraction from Mr. Clinton's duties in his remaining two years or provoke any kind of constitutional showdown. Indicting Mr. Clinton would, in our view, be a bad

A contempt finding raises none of these concerns, nor does it raise the concerns about partisanship that have haunted previous proceedings. Judge Wright has been unsistingly fair to Mr. Clinton throughout this litigation. It was she, after all, who threw out the Paula Jones case on summary judgment last year. A finding by her that a contempt citation is warranted could not be dismissed as part of some political vendetta. It would, rather, be an appropriately measured response to his conduct — one that held him accountable and yet allowed him to serve out his term as president as unshackled by this whole episode as his hugely diminished stature permitted.

—THE WASHINGTON POST

Other Comment

Tabloid Populism

Populism is growing deeply unpopular. For however attractive it may have sounded in principle to have "the people" in charge, the reality — rule by the tabloid press — is beginning to feel very unpleasantly like rule of the mob. This is a demoralizing condition which makes everybody in public life, at however low a level, feel insecure and vulnerable. When will the dread finger be pointing at me?

— Peregrine Worsthorne, writing in *The Daily Telegraph* (London).

A European Defense Identity Would Bolster NATO

Most of the recent disputes between the United States and European nations over security issues can be seen in this light. America and France, in particular, have been at odds over NATO command assignments, policy toward Iran and Iraq, and the need for UN

As a result, European forces are manpower intensive and unable to be employed at great distances. In the aggregate, Europeans spend less than the United States on developing and buying new weapons and equipment and on the people that operate them.

Second, Europe could reduce territorial defenses, abandon conscription, cut back manpower levels, and build up volunteer forces able to operate at great distances. This sort of restructuring

Americans should applaud this. But Americans and Europeans should be realistic in recognizing that these are but baby steps on a long and arduous road. Unless a major project is mounted that will promise greater European military strength, Americans will be skeptical of more communiqués promising a European security and defense identity.

The writer, president of RAND and chairman of the board of RAND Europe, contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

In Iraq or Serbia, 'Smart' Bombs Aren't Smart Enough

cannot be confirmed, so no every
more is disclosed. Each day's Sm
communiqué says damage as- than

art bombs may be better
the old-fashioned kind at

...true need is to have to be carried
oppressive oper- This certainly is
the Iraqi regime that the United S
within Iraq. ... The launch a full-scale
community is re- tempt to get rid
for protecting the Hussein or Slob
just such oppressive sevic. Nor should i

But the task of keeping the peace and protecting human beings is not simple. No magic formulas or smartly magic weapons exist to do it. America is only fooling itself and wasting its money with its bomb fetish. This shows willfulness, but not really leadership.

because of *Flora Lewis.*

Don't Try to Fix Kosovo by Ruining Bosnia

hold of Radovan Karadzic, an indicted war criminal and former president of the Republika Srpska, and his ally, Momcilo Krajinovic, a former

shortsightedness here back to all that was mis- with previous interna- policies in the Balkans. Queen's proposal ac-

So let the negotiators and the parties work out their differences at Rambouillet, just as the Bosnian negotiators did at Dayton.

Herald Tribune

EARLY MORNING D

Signs of Instability in Central Asia

lam Karimov, the former leader of the Uzbek Communist Party and now the president, has restricted basic freedoms and arrested and harassed pro-democracy activists. In the name of fighting Islamic fundamentalism, he has closed nearly a thousand mosques in

others believe that the
others were responsible,
point to Uzbekistan's sug-
gestion that it will not sign any
revision of the collective se-
cure treaty that Moscow has
proposed extending to its
other republics

on — a general
not reared in the
viet domination.
Recent bombings
that the changing
guard in the ex-
posed could be any-
thing, especially
of and the other

On Feb. 18, 1949, Zamora died. It is inconceivable that any demand of fashion could now persuade the ordinary American to submit to the tortures inflicted in the past under that name.

[illegible]Herald INTERNATIONAL Tribune

- **RENÉ BONDY**, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

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IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1899: Loubet Elected

PARIS — The prophecies made before the event were right. Everybody said that M. Loubet was certain to be elected as the successor of the late M. Félix Faure. In the afternoon [Feb. 18] he was made President of the French Republic by a majority of seventy votes. M. Loubet virtually had things in his own hands. With the exception of a waistcoat with a dinner-cutter on it, "Tuxedo," so-called! Tailors seem to be blind to the compelling fact of the evolution of costume, under the influence of modern needs. It is inconceivable that any demand of fashion could now persuade the ordinary American to submit to the tortures inflicted in the past under that name.

1949: Zamora Dies

der happier circumstances might have stood some chance of occupying the Elysée Palace for a term, has been more or less affected by the Dreyfus affair.

1924: Fashion Heresy

PARIS — [The Herald says in an Editorial:] Tailors seem to be agitated over what they regard as decadence in men's fashions. In New York, tailor designers have protested against that male

THE

OPINION/LETTERS

In Victory, Turkey Must Show Magnanimity Toward the Kurds

By William Safire

WASHINGTON — A mob of Syrians may with impunity trash the U.S. ambassador's residence in Damascus, but when a mob of Kurds storms Israel's consulate in Berlin and seizes a hostage, demonstrators get killed. That is because Israel is not a democracy.

Kurdish separatists living in Germany lashed out at Israel because they mistakenly suspected its Mossad helped a fugitive leader, Abdullah Ocalan, in Kenya. The ensuing bloodshed was doubly tragic because the Kurdish and Jewish peoples — non-Arab and historically oppressed — long quietly shared a fellowship of the rejected in the Middle East.

The Kurds, 20 million weak, have no homeland. Many live in northern Iraq, and are protected from Saddam Hussein in a "no-flight zone" by U.S. planes based in Turkey, where most other Kurds live. (In Istanbul this month, I was reminded to call them "Turks of Kurdish descent.")

Reasonable Kurdish leaders want autonomy within other nations: to enjoy their language and culture under a degree of self-rule. Then there is the Marxist Mr. Ocalan. He and his PKK guerrillas have been fight-

ing a bloody war against the Turks for an independent Kurdistan, costing over 30,000 lives in 15 years. By threatening war with Syria, Turkey drove him out of his Damascus sanctuary. His capture triggered furious protest throughout Europe. He is to be tried in Turkey.

He will soon be lionized by knee-jerk leftists everywhere. They will overlook the way he murders those not loyal enough to him and probably profits from heroin smuggling to support his movement.

But Mr. Ocalan's flight and capture have radicalized Kurds of all factions. Turned away from every door, he desperately searched for refuge. That symbolized the plight of a people whose slogan was uttered decades ago by my friend Mullah Mustafa Barzani, another Kurdish leader, after his betrayal to the Shah of Iran by the Americans: "The Kurds have no friends."

On trial, the fiery Mr. Ocalan is likely to come across more as a righteous John Brown than a coolly murderous Adolf Eichmann. His prosecutors run the danger of being portrayed as authoritarian mil-

itarists not only denying cultural rights to a repressed minority, but bouncing a rebellion's rubble by persecuting its hero.

That media play would further alienate Kurdish Europeans from Turkey, which they unfairly blackball from their club.

Making a martyr out of Mr. Ocalan would strain, though not break, the "phantom alliance" of Turkey, Israel and the United States, a strategic tie that so frustrates fundamentalist Muslims and southward-looking Russians.

Let's not go down that road.

First, here is what the Kurds in Iraq should do: Mr. Barzani's son Massoud should stop playing footsie with Saddam Hussein. On Sunday he met secretly in Duhok with Tariq Aziz, Iraq's deputy prime minister. No good can come out of two-timing the United States, which polices the no-flight zone from Turkey.

With Mr. Ocalan in custody, Kurds everywhere should encourage new leadership to help the Americans overthrow Saddam and help the Turks make peace with Kurds of Turkish descent. Promote Kurdishness, not Kurdistan.

Here is what the Turks should do: Declare victory and end the Kurdish war.

(1) In the trial, concentrate on the PKK killings of Kurdish "collaborators" and knock themselves out to be fair. (2) Pump money, not ammo, into impoverished Kurdish villages. (3) Release jailed Kurdish politicians and let Kurds vote for them instead of the Islamic party. (4) Permit Kurdish-language radio and TV, so that Kurds do not rely only on news from pro-PKK broadcasts from London. In other words, loosen up, Turkey — you have won. With confidence gained from victory, treat ethnic diversity as a sign of strength. Emulate multicultural Western democracies, not Balkan tribal conquerors.

Here is what the United States and Israel should do: Publicly hail Turkey's victory. (Both President Bill Clinton and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu have been doing the right thing on this.) Make plain to oil companies that the Caspian pipeline is safest through Turkey. Convince the Turks that the above four-point plan benefits the phantom alliance. (If the Turks want, let Azerbaijan in.)

Above all, Ankara, take Winston Churchill's advice: "In war, resolution ... in victory, magnanimity."

The New York Times.

A Nightly Civility Lesson At a Mexican Dance Hall

By M. Delal Baer

MEXICO CITY — Hidden behind the headlines of corruption and gangland slayings is a quieter Mexico, one rarely noticed, let alone celebrated. But every night, when the music strikes up at a small restaurant named La Embajada Jarocha, you can be transported instantly to the 1950s — to a culture of decency that is still the norm among Mexico's vast and honorable middle class of modest means.

The place is filled with families and married couples in their forties, with a sprinkling of young folk, widowers and dapper men over 60 wearing fedoras. Age segregation and the generation gap

started 17 years ago with a monthly get-together with friends from Veracruz. The owner's wife, Cary, was working as a street vendor selling seafood dishes when the couple thought: Why not open a restaurant and dance salon where friends could come to celebrate the food and music of Veracruz? Hence, the Veracruz Embassy, or La Embajada Jarocha.

The place is more than a business — it is a community. There is the elder Don Ramon, a Veracruzano who presides over a table teeming with friends, children and the wife he seems to adore.

There is the owner, who weaves about the tables. Everyone knows that he was mambo champion of Veracruz and won the accolade "King of the Ugly" for making

corned faces during carnival. Then there are the modestly paid surgeons, former prizefighters, lower-rung architects, cheap lawyers, commercial wholesalers, oil workers and all the good folk who keep the wheels of Mexican society turning in the right direction.

When you are ready to leave, good manners dictate that you make the rounds and say good night to everyone you had some interaction with, which means visiting virtually every table. I, the blond foreigner, was warmly accepted and called the "Veracruz Angel" by the courtly man who escorted me through salsa steps.

These are true tales from Mexico. People and places like this really exist in Mexico's wholesome Eisenhowerian backwaters of community, family values and joie de vivre. They are angered that some of their cops and politicians are crooks, and they fear that their children are at risk in the new world of sleazy values, but they are not convinced that the gringos have seen the mote in their own eyes.

So when accusations gush forth from Washington, usually regarding the drug trade, the patrons of La Embajada Jarocha pause in their daily rounds. Amazed at America's self-righteousness, they wonder if we really understand them or what they are up against. And, of course, we don't.

The restaurant owners migrated to Mexico City from the port town of Veracruz — famous for its lively dancing. Mexicans have a strong sense of place and never lose their nostalgia for the provinces. So it all

The writer, director of the Mexico Project at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, contributed this column to The Washington Post.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Pentagon Clarification

Regarding "BA's Marconi Purchase Now Viewed as 'Damaging'" (Feb. 16):

The United States can support trans-Atlantic industrial consolidation that is based on economic rather than political factors if the process includes effective systems to protect information and technology from disclosure.

The United States has removed the barriers between defense and commercial industry to take advantage of the rapid innovation in commercial sectors driven by huge public sector investments that dwarf research and development financed by governments.

Industrial security is not inconsistent with encouraging technology transfer and information sharing. On the contrary, sharing technology and information can also enhance security by promoting interoperability. Closer relationships between U.S. and European industry can contribute to more compatible military forces.

The United States has been reviewing these issues carefully to ensure that industrial security systems keep pace with the rapid changes in industry and business

practices — both to ensure that we prevent unintended disclosure that would endanger security, and to ensure that security systems do not needlessly hinder information sharing that can enhance security.

JOHN J. HAMRE.

Washington.

The writer is the U.S. deputy secretary of defense.

Private and Public

Regarding "Let's Focus on Public Morality" (Opinion, Feb. 16) by Gary Hart:

Does Mr. Hart really think that history will remember President Bill Clinton for his reform of the military or for preparing America for the next energy crisis? This is simply wishful thinking. History will most likely remember as much about these accomplishments as what I remember about Mr. Hart's accomplishments as a senator from Colorado: nothing.

The only thing that I know about Mr. Hart is that he had to quit the race for the Democratic presidential nomination when he invited the press to find something in his past and they found a luscious blond, to whom he was not married.

Mr. Hart preaches that we should overlook an individual's personal moral failings and focus on what he or she has done for the public. I disagree that "public morality" is more important than individual morality. True interest in the public good comes from people who have a firmly rooted private morality — not from people who confuse their ambition to be remembered in history with what is good for the nation.

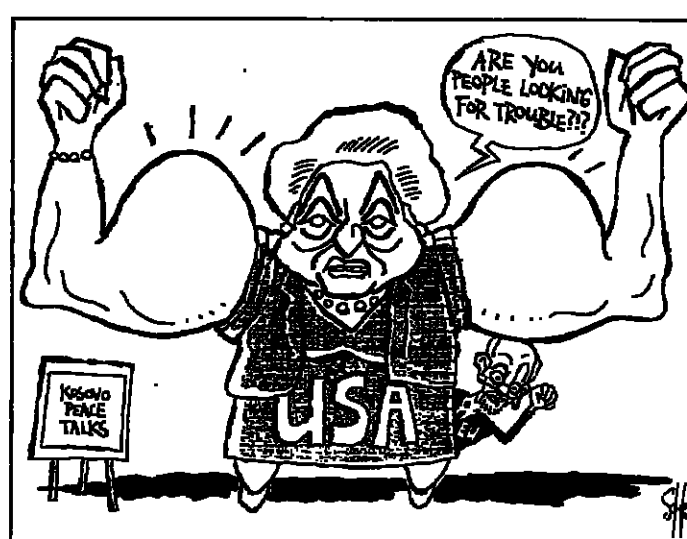
I am not interested in judging the personal lives of public figures by a moral yardstick. But I am concerned with the reasoning abilities of leaders who make overtly bad decisions, who choose to risk the shame and humiliation of their families for a few moments of pleasure, and who believe that they are infallible and that the public will let them do whatever they want — provided that they keep the economy going.

KYM KETTLER.

The Hague, Netherlands.

Teletubbies' Friends

Regarding "The Menace of the Teletubbies: Fifth-Columnists for a Subversive Lifestyle" (Opinion, Feb. 16) by Jeff MacGregor:



By Schenck in Virginia (lighted illustration, C&W Studios).

I did not know what to make of the Teletubbies when they first appeared on television, but thanks to Reverend Jerry Falwell I have drawn some of my own conclusions concerning children's programs. For example: Doesn't Bugs Bunny (a male bushy-tailed rabbit) often kiss Elmer Fudd (a male hunter) on the lips? Albeit he snaps his suspenders and throws a


cream pie in his face beforehand. And doesn't Daffy Duck do the same to Porky Pig? And finally there is Yosemite Sam with that just-almost-too-much-leather-bar-mustache-macho attitude, who caves in at the end of each episode and shows his pitiful and emotional self.

JAMES EASTENWOOD.


Villeneuve-Loubet, France.

Smart Enough

Ruining Bosnia



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South India's Kingdom by the Sea

By Katherine Tanko

MAMALLAPURAM, India — For many, the great Mogul palaces of North India with their glittering facades and Arabian Nights minarets represent Indian architecture at its most vibrant and exotic. But these treasures — built by India's foreign rulers — are about as representative of indigenous Indian art as Calcutta's colonial buildings.

For me, the true seat of India's architectural glory rests in the southern province of Tamil Nadu. Here, in the fishing village of Mamallapuram (Mahabalipuram), south of Madras, you can witness the legacy of more than three centuries' worth of early Tamil art. Scattered among the town's rocky hillsides are magnificent rock-cut temples, fabulously detailed tableaux and dramatic shore temples representing some of the finest examples of ancient temple art in India.

Mamallapuram's combination of sun, surf and ancient ruins has made it one of south India's most popular holiday spots. The white-sand beaches that curve north of town are lined with tidy resorts, while in Mamallapuram itself there are plenty of small guest houses and family-run restaurants to choose from. It is the kind of place where you can stroll among ancient ruins in the morning, then retire to a sun-warmed beach in the afternoon; start the day with a lazy breakfast on a shady veranda, then watch the sunset over fresh grilled fish and a few cool beers.

Steps from the sea, beyond a breakwater of jagged rock, I found Mamallapuram's trademark eighth-century shore temples. Soaring up into the sky against a backdrop of blue sea and casuarina trees, they occupy what must be the most romantic temple setting in India. The shore temples are a favorite among Tamil families who flock to the site on Sundays.

A MAGNIFICENT PAST

It has been many years since these temples were used for worship. Even so, groups of women in glittering saris moving against a backdrop of golden stone and sand breathed life into these incredible monuments, hinting at their magnificent past.

The main temple, dedicated to Vishnu, was built so close to the shore that its base was lapped by seawater. Twelve-hundred years of plate tectonics have



Mamallapuram's trademark eighth-century shore temples.

pushed the temples safely onto dry land. Unfortunately, centuries of salty spray blowing in from the Bay of Bengal have eroded much of the artwork decorating the stone facades.

The temple's greatest significance is not in the details of its carvings, however, but in its pyramid-shaped peak, or *vimana*. These were among the first stone temples to be built in this style. The new temples, with their soaring peaks rising up out of the sands, set the standard for south Indian temple

building that has endured to this day.

It was the Pallavas, Tamil Nadu's first great imperial power, who created Mamallapuram's shore temples. Although their capital was at Kanchipuram — about 65 kilometers west of Madras — it was here, at their seaport on the southeast coast of India, that they created their most exquisite works of art.

Little is known of the Pallavas. Some claim they traced their lineage back to the great Mauryan emperor Asoka; others that they were little more than plunderers. Whatever the case, they were the first great patrons of Tamil art.

Through the development of music, dance, poetry and sculpture they helped establish a distinct Tamil identity. More significantly, they created a style so fresh and daring it would influence the development of Tamil temple building for centuries to come.

The best example of Pallava sculpture is found 500 meters inland. The stunning Penance Panel — more commonly known as Arjuna's Penance — is a beautifully preserved, open-air tableau more than 30 meters long. It tells the story of the descent of the Ganges with a lively cast of characters including *nagas* (snake people), dwarfs and a hypocritical cat. Folk art depictions of life in the seventh century show woodsmen carrying bows and an exotic collection of animals from elephants to iguanas.

Images reflecting the everyday life of ordinary villagers is one of the things that make the rock carvings at Mamallapuram unique.

STRENGTH OF KRISHNA

One of the best examples of this is the Krishna Mandapa, an elaborate bas-relief that predates the Penance Panel. In it, Krishna is seen lifting Mount Govardhana with one hand to protect local villagers from the wrath of the god Indra. Instead of consorting with other gods, he is surrounded by ordinary scenes of village life: a shepherd playing a flute; a mother nursing her baby; a couple dancing hand in hand; even a cow playfully licking her calf while being milked by a farmer.

The Penance Panel was created during the reign of King Narasimha Varman I, who ruled from 640 to 668 and was responsible for some of Mamallapuram's greatest works of art. Such was his contribution that he even named the port after himself. Assuming the title of Mahamalla (great wrestler) after an important military victory, he named the Pallava port town Mahamalla (Mamallapuram) before launching a flurry of artistic activity. Some of the temples, it has been suggested, weren't even built for worship, but to show off the talents of local artists.

One of Narasimha Varman I's most curious legacies is the Five Rathas. Set amid sandy dunes on the southern edge of town, these free-standing temples were carved out of individual blocks of granite. The temples are decorated with gorgeous bas-reliefs in typical Dravidian style. In addition to voluptuous Dur-



The seven-foot-high elephant carved out of solid rock at Five Rathas.

gas and noble Shivas, there is also a seven-foot-high elephant beautifully carved out of solid rock. Its significance is unclear, but it's likely that the elephant — whose backside is the same shape as the temple next to it — is a little joke, compliments of Pallava architects.

Of course, the Pallavas' artistic legacies are not restricted to Tamil Nadu. In addition to being artists and temple builders, the Pallavas were also great seafarers, carrying trade and Hinduism across Southeast Asia.

In Java today you can still see the scattered remains of Hindu temples dating from the fifth century. The most stunning, though, are the magnificent ninth-century temples at Prambanan. With their soaring vimanas and elaborate carvings, it is certain they were either built with help of Pallava artisans, or at the very least, heavily influenced by their work.

And they're not the only ones. Wander around Mamallapuram's dusty

streets today and your step soon slows to the gentle rhythm of chisel tapping against stone.

Fourteen hundred years after Tamil artists first began turning lumps of rock into temples for the gods, sculpture remains a part of everyday life. On every street corner, young men chip away at mounds of stone producing Ganeshes, Shivas and Parvatis — this time for the rash of tourists shops that have sprung up around town.

Tourism is the main industry — some might say only industry — in Mamallapuram today. Even the local fishermen, who tend their nets steps from the shore temples, sell most of their catch to restaurants and resorts. It's the kind of thing that might have Narasimha Varman I, the great Pallava ruler, turning in his grave. But it's more likely he'd be proud to see the fruits of his patronage still revered for its artistry and beauty after so many years.

Katherine Tanko is a journalist who travels frequently in Asia.

DINING

In the Garden of the Senses

Twin Chefs in Montpellier Blend the Modern and Traditional

By Patricia Wells

International Herald Tribune

MONTPELLIER, France — They are known as Les Freres Poulcel, twin brothers who shook the French food world just a year ago as they captured the coveted third Michelin star for their modern, personalized restaurant on the outskirts of this southern city.

Along with their partner-maitre d'hôtel-sommelier, Olivier Chateau, they like to joke that they now have a star for each one of them.

The Poulcel story is a familiar French one. The twins Jacques and Laurent, sons of a local winemaker, grew up with a passion for the food that marries with the rich and heady local wines. As a double tour de force, they spread their wings around the country, Laurent apprenticing to such top French chefs as Michel Bras and Alain Chapel, and Jacques working under the tutelage of Michel Thuaud, Marc Meunier and Pierre Gagnaire. They opened their own restaurant, Le Jardin des Sens, in Montpellier in 1988 and seem never to have looked back.

Their restaurant-hotel matches their cuisine, with a look distinctly contemporary (the architect, Bruno Borione, is known for his work at New York's Paramount and Royalton hotels) and a cuisine that intelligently blends tradition with modernity.

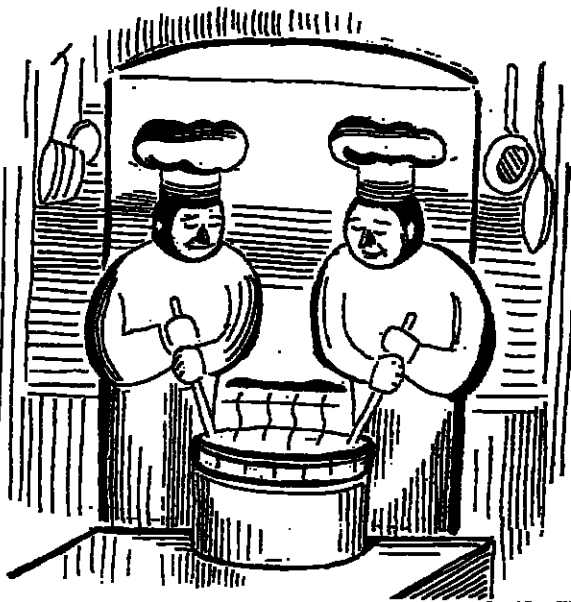
Be warned: The place is very hard to find, even for one with a good sense of direction and all the Michelin literature. Internet users may visit the restaurant Web site — www.lejardindessens.fr — and print out a map.)

VAST, TIERED DINING ROOM

Once you find it, you will enter into a garden of the senses: The vast tiered dining room overlooks a garden in progress, with a 400-year-old olive tree, fruit trees and vines. Everywhere, from the Porthault linens to the Bernardaud china, you see that they have determined to do it right.

My only complaints: I prefer a more classic look and find the huge room more of a theater set than a dining room. I also missed a female presence, one that inevitably lightens and softens what can sometimes be a sobering and off-putting grand three-star experience.

The food is a model of modernity, although it is clear that the Poulcelles are not about to abandon the great French traditions. Working with the



David Soter/MTT

Add to this Chateau's extraordinary knowledge of the great wines of the Languedoc, and a good time is assured.

For longtime fans of Pile ou Face in Paris, it was a sad day indeed when they sold the thriving Michelin-starred restaurant three years ago. Lucky for us, the three restaurateurs — Claude Udrin, Alain Dumergue and Philippe Marquet — resurfaced in July on the Mediterranean coast, in Montpellier, about 50 kilometers (30 miles) from Montpellier.

In this quiet seaside village, they opened the charming Chez Philippe, a casual and perfectly appointed bistro with a bargain 100-franc (\$18) menu. Since opening day, the "complet" sign has been out for lunch and dinner, and reservations a week in advance are not out of order.

With chef Sebastian Demeulle at the stove, Chez Philippe offers a choice menu of five starters, five main courses and five desserts, all with an accent on the Languedoc. With such specialties as the layered vegetable omelette (*crespeau*), eggplant with delicate goat cheese; poached oysters from the Bassin de Thau; and a grain of mussels cooked in the local Nollly Dry, we have a veritable regional festival.

THE restaurateurs are always searching for a new local wine, a new local cheese monger, a new local vegetable grower, a new local designer to embellish their already well-tended prize. Go with an eye toward pleasure, and hope that their experience, attention to detail and passion for food rubs off.

Le Jardin des Sens, 11 Avenue Saint-Lazare, 34000 Montpellier. Tel: 04-67-79-63-38; fax: 04-67-72-13-05. Credit cards: American Express, Diners Club, Visa. Closed Sunday, Monday lunch and two weeks in January. Menus from 230 to 590 francs (about \$40 to \$100). A la carte, 190 to 480, including service but not wine.

Chez Philippe, 20 rue de Suffren, 34340 Marseillan. Tel: 04-67-01-70-62. Credit card: Visa. Closed Sunday dinner, Monday and Tuesday. Open for dinner only every night in July and August. Closed in January. 100-franc menu. A la carte, 150 to 170 francs, including wine and service.

Patricia Wells can be reached on the Web at: www.patriciawells.com

Wine Bars Of Tokyo

Japan Gets Serious

By Ken Belson

TOKYO — When the Japanese decide to do something, they do it thoroughly, if not excessively. So it is with the fashions now sweeping the nation: cellular phones, 1970s heavy-knit sweaters and, thankfully, wine. That means visitors to Tokyo can now find plenty of centrally located, well-stocked wine bars at prices that are fast becoming affordable.

For decades, beer, sake and whisky dominated menus at bars and eateries, with wine reserved for foreigners and dilettantes. But sophistication is "in," especially with younger Japanese who travel to Europe, the United States and beyond. Even hard-drinking businessmen, tired of getting bloated on brew or hammered on Scotch, are turning to wine — because it is lighter, healthier and goes with a wider range of foods.

The wine boom is a surprise given the fact that Japan is suffering through its longest and worst recession since World War II.

Sales of imported wine rose nearly 30 percent last year, and foreign wines now have 50 percent of the market. More than 42 percent of imported wines sold here are French, followed by those from Italy, Chile, the United States and Germany. Imports from France and Italy rocketed more than 150 percent last year, and imports from Chile and Argentina notched four-fold increases.

Japanese newspapers even run articles to herald the arrival of the year's nouveau Beaujolais. Specialty magazines and wine-tasting groups with their own Web sites are sprouting up.

SOMMELIER EXPLOSION Then there are the ultimate devotees — 3,852, to be precise: the sommeliers. There are 28 percent more of them in Japan than a year ago, and nine times as many as in 1990, the Japan Sommelier Association says.

Meanwhile, eager to boost sales in a slumping economy, supermarkets and liquor shops are devoting more space to display racks of reds and whites at increasingly reasonable prices. A typical bottle of Italian Chianti costs about \$7 now in my neighborhood liquor store.

This boom is also good news for travelers who are intimidated by smoky pubs filled with sodden salarymen. Finding a bar in Tokyo for a quiet glass of wine and a nibble of cheese is no longer a search for the Holy Grail.

The best wine bars are sprinkled through Tokyo's trendier neighborhoods, including Roppongi, the city's best known after-hours spot. Most of them are tucked in side streets, past the



Inside the Brasserie Les Halles, where the wine list is 70 choices deep.

hawkers pushing karaoke clubs and worse. Most are within a 10-minute walk of the Roppongi subway station.

A warning, though. While prices for wine in Tokyo are coming down, everything is relative. A tour of, say, three bars could easily cost you 20,000 yen (\$170). A prudent selection of wines and food should halve the cost.

A perfect place to start is Maru's Bar, a snug basement with a friendly owner and helpful staff. With just 10 counter seats and two tables, Maru's fills up quickly, so it's best to get there by the 6 P.M. opening. Next door is Maru's Restaurant, so dinner afterward is easily done.

Maru's cellar leans toward the French, and is impressive given the shop's tiny interior. A glass of 1995 Gevrey-Chambertin, or similar red Burgundies, costs 1,600 yen. Bottles start at 6,000 yen. There is also an excruciatingly complex selection of cheese. Our sommelier suggested four of the more than two dozen choices that included a hard Mimolette, a creamy Brillat-Savarin and a Prestige, made from sheep's milk.

For a more casual start, try Brasserie Les Halles. The Paris-style bistro is under new management and has companion restaurants in New York, Washington and Miami. The wine list is 70 choices deep, and more global than Maru's. The tables up front open onto the street in warm weather, and the menu stretches from a simple Croque-Monsieur for 650 yen to a Japanese-style steak with Bearnaise sauce for nearly 4,000. Les Halles is open seven days a week from 11 A.M. to midnight and is a great place to linger with friends.

Mr. Stamp's Wine Garden is a logical

next stop if you are looking for a full meal and an even deeper wine list. Mr. Stamp's opened in 1976, and the narrow entryway, small tables and overly decorated walls give the place a casual, lived-in look. But the classical music and waiters in tuxedos bring an air of sophistication to a restaurant that definitely has its regulars.

The food is excellent and decidedly French. The wines are a classic bundle of Bordeaux, Burgundies and beyond. The prices veer to the high end, with bottles starting at 4,000 yen, so your tour could end here if you are on a tight budget.

AGENT is a stone's throw away and perfect for a quiet drink in more contemporary surroundings. The restaurant and bar are on the second floor of the Axis Building, the sort of concrete and glass contraption found in trendier Tokyo. The low lighting, Spanish music and funky decor give Agent a hipper, more romantic feel. The wines, about half of which are Italian and French, are accompanied by a wide choice of single malt whisky and champagne. The long bar and interpretive Continental menu allow the restaurant to accommodate a variety of customers.

There are several other worthy spots near Roppongi, including Le Caviste and Scala Dei in Azabu Juban. Du Vin Hachisch has one of the finer menus in town, and a friendly owner with a creative flair. Scala is open until 5 in the morning for the young at heart.

Ken Belson works for Reuters in Tokyo.

MOVIE GUIDE

BLAST FROM THE PAST

Directed by Hugh Wilson. U.S.

"Blast From the Past" tells the not automatically funny story of a family so nuclear that it scurries into its fallout shelter in 1962 and spends 35 years underground. By the time the squeaky-clean Webbers resurface, the sights of graffiti, barbed wire, urban decay, a porn shop and a transvestite prostitute convince them that, as the father puts it, "society as we know it has totally collapsed." Fortunately, the Webber shelter is a jaunty monument to kitsch, and the Webbers themselves are an appealingly batty crew. Calvin (Christopher Walken) is the film's funniest character, a "borderline nutcase" fond of Dr. Pepper served hot. He's the gung-ho mad scientist who has dreamed up a shelter suitable for farming, shuffleboard and watching television as if nothing had gone amiss above ground. (The Webbers have mistaken a plane crash for a nuclear disaster.) This enables his wife, Helen (Sissy Spacek), to putter about a kitchen full of turquoise appliances and hit the apparently endless supply of cooking sherry, a once-sunny homemaker stuck underground. The Webbers have raised a strapping hunk named Adam, who has retained his wide-eyed innocence while growing up to be Brendan Fraser. As directed by Hugh Wilson ("The First Wives Club") and written by Wilson and Bill Kelly, "Blast From the Past" inevitably gives Adam an Eve. Sent upstairs into the world on a reconnaissance mission, he meets a hard-boiled, jaded babe played by Alicia Silverstone, who introduces Adam to her gay friend Troy (Dave Foley). Together, Eve and Troy teach Adam how to wear a black leather blazer and, as they coach him, "look unimpressed," which makes for all the attitude that Adam needs. The film forgets its more amusing underground subplot for a long stretch of time while Adam and Eve get acquainted. While this comedy strives for teenage appeal above ground, it's mostly the fallout shelter no-



Christopher Walken in "Blast From the Past."

tion that makes for the laughs. The production and costume designers from "Boogie Nights" guarantee retro chic and visual wit to accompany the story's wildest notions. (Janet Maslin, NYT)

LITTLE VOICE

Directed by Mark Herman. U.K.

"Little Voice" is like an expertly tailored gown of beaded silk. It showcases its star Jane Horrocks to perfection, but should the wearer step out of it, the garment would not be able to stand on its own. So it is with this lovely but gossamer-thin film based on a play that itself was based on a peculiar talent of Horrocks — her uncanny gift for vocal mimicry of some of this century's greatest female singers. Insubstantial but achingly well-acted, "Little Voice" would collapse in a heap without Horrocks there to support it. Mark Herman ("Brassed Off") has adapted Robin Wright Penn's stage play for the screen, and that it succeeds is chiefly due to the abilities of its remarkable cast. In addition to Horrocks, the film includes Oscar-nominated Brenda Blethyn as the heroine's blowsy widowed mum Mari. Once again, Blethyn astonishes in the

role of a blue-streak swearing Gorgon who manages to evoke not only amusement and disgust but sympathy. As Ray Say, Mari's love interest and low-rent talent agent, Michael Caine brings a brassy dignity to a character whose hubris is almost tragic. Jim Broadbent shines as Mr. Boo, the greasy club owner, while the ubiquitous Ewan McGregor turns in a sweet performance as the reluctant singer's suitor and knight in shining armor. (Michael O'Sullivan, WP)

MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE

Directed by Luis Mandoki. U.S.

"Message in a Bottle" is, for Kevin Costner, another handsome day at the office. Make that the beach. It's a destiny romance, a sort of "Sleepless in Seattle," in which two souls maneuver closer and closer to harmonic convergence while the audience waits with delicious agony in the dark, tear ducts and tissues at the ready. I was that annoying moviegoer at one recent screening, constantly checking his watch to see how many times this thing was going to bob before it went down. Costner, who basically plays an archetypal version of himself, is Garret Blake, who builds sailboats in the Outer Banks, says little and writes mournful letters to a lost love called Catherine. He's so "Kevin Costner" he's almost a hologram of himself. Robin Wright Penn, whose deft performance is rather more than the movie deserves, is Theresa Osborne, a single mother and researcher at The Chicago Tribune, who picks up one of his love letters in a bottle. Costner has whittled down his skills to a comely efficiency. After all, it takes just one shimmery gaze to make his fans think they've died and gone to Kevin. Why work himself into a lather? But Wright Penn and Paul Newman, as Garret's father, are nice surprises. She really looks like a woman falling head over heels in love. And he milks a throwaway role with charm we haven't seen since "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid." (Desson Howe, WP)

ARTS GUIDE

AUSTRIA

VIENNA
KunstHausWien, tel: (1) 712-0485, open daily. To May 2: "Jean-Michel Basquiat." One hundred works by the American graffiti artist (1960-1988) who reached meteoric success before his death at the age of 27.
www.kunsthauwien.com

BRITAIN

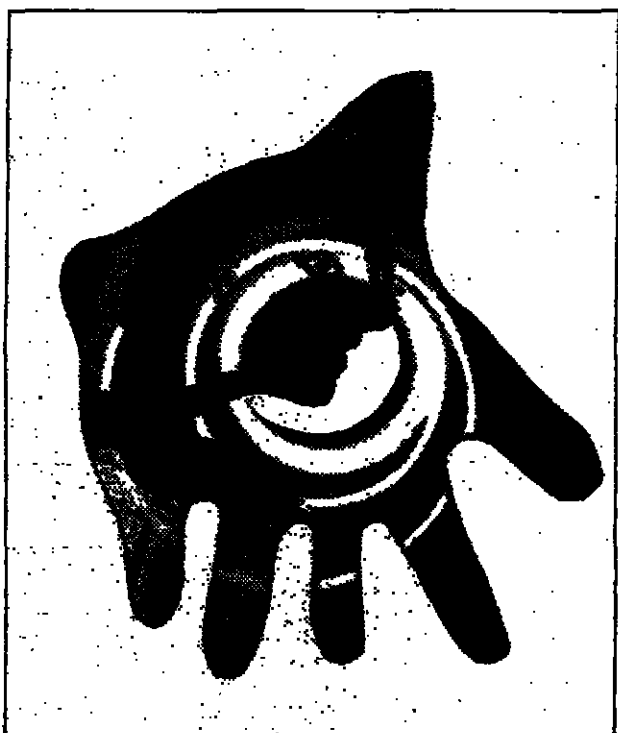
LONDON
Barbican Art Gallery, tel: (171) 638-8891, open daily. To March 20: "Pissarro and Photography: The Dark Mirror." The contribution of photography to Pissarro's creative process. On display are more than 300 works, including the artist's own photographs and collaborations with Dora Maar and Brassaï.
www.barbican.org.uk
Hayward Gallery, tel: (171) 928-3144, open daily. To April 11: "Patrick Caulfield." One of the generation of artists that includes David Hockney and R. B. Kitaj; Caulfield (born 1936) creates figurative still lifes and interiors, landscapes and figure compositions that are painted in bright colors with busy patterns.
www.hayward-gallery.org.uk
Royal Academy of Arts, tel: (171) 300-8000, open daily. Continuing To April 11: "Monet in the 20th Century." Features 80 paintings completed in the final decades of the artist's life.
www.royalacademy.org.uk

CANADA

MONTREAL
Musée des Beaux-Arts, tel: (514) 285-1600, closed Mondays. To May 9: "Monet at Glynn." Masterpieces from the Musée Marmottan. On loan from the Paris museum, 22 paintings by the French Impressionist (1840-1926).
www.mmba.qc.ca

FRANCE

PARIS
Grand Palais, tel: 01-44-13-17-17, closed Tuesdays. Continuing To



"Hand with Two Profiles," created by Picasso in 1930. Is in the Barbican Art Gallery exhibition in London.

April 26: "Un Ami de Cézanne et de Van Gogh: Le Docteur Gachet, 1828-1909." A small selection of paintings by Van Gogh, Sisley and Pissarro together with watercolor copies of Impressionist paintings by Gachet, his son and a friend of Gachet's, Blanche Derouesse. Musée National du Moyen Age, tel: 01-53-73-78-15, closed Tuesdays. To May 3: "Trésors Méditerranéens de la République de Macédoine." On loan from Macedonian museums, churches and monasteries, a collection of 40 icons dating from the seventh to the 16th centuries.
www.mnm.fr

HONG KONG

University Museum and Art Gallery, tel: 2975-5500, closed Fridays. To Feb. 28: "Chinese Calligraphy by Ambrose So Shu-fai." Features more than 40 works of So, a contemporary Hong Kong calligrapher whose redefined and curvilinear brushstrokes reflect the influence of ancient stone rubbings.
www.hku.hk

GERMANY

DUESSELDORF
Kunstmuseum, tel: (211) 899-

JAPAN

KYOTO
National Museum of Modern Art, tel: (75) 781-4111, closed Mondays. To March 22: "Prints of Edward Munch." Works by the Norwegian artist (1863-1944). With Expressionist intensity, Munch expressed people's loneliness and anxiety with strong colors and swirling lines.
www.momak.go.jp

UNITED STATES

NEW YORK
Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, tel: (212) 423-3500, closed Thursdays. To May 16: "Jim Dine: Walking Memory, 1959-1989." During the first 10 years of his professional career, Jim Dine (born 1935) began his lifelong pursuit of the themes of the self, the body and memory through a variety of paintings, sculpture and mixed-media assemblages, combining painting and objects (found objects or store-bought items) to create both tactile and cerebral works.
www.guggenheim.org

CLOSING SOON

AMSTERDAM
Feb. 21: "Maxim Kantor: ... From Russia's Past." Bass Museum of Art, Miami.

ASIA
Feb. 21: "Masterpieces of Chinese Ceramics From the Percival David Collection in London." Museum of Oriental Ceramics, Osaka.

EUROPE
Feb. 21: "Fin de Siècle: Graphic Art in Europe Around 1900." Wehrhahn-Richter-Museum, Cologne.

Feb. 21: "Picasso — Klee — Giacometti: Die Sammlung Stegmüller." Staatsgalerie, Stuttgart.

Compiled by Elisabeth Hopkins

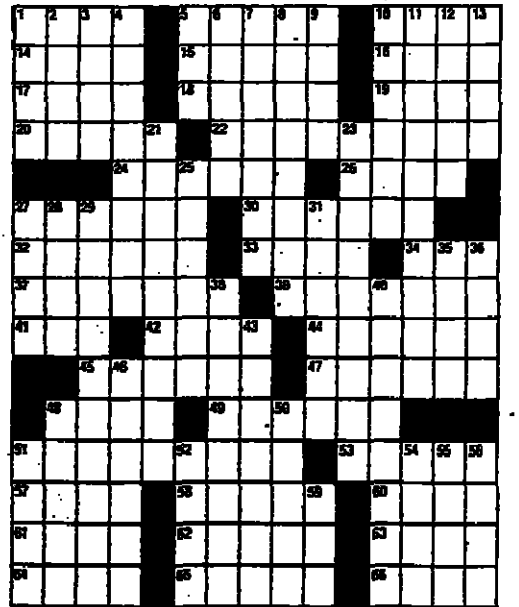
CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Classic name at the Newport Folk Festival
- 5 Gulf of Guinea city
- 10 Magic charm
- 14 Org. often seen in court
- 15 Hit a low note?
- 16 Top service provider
- 17 "The Little Mermaid" prince
- 18 One doing the lord's work
- 20 Boxer's concern
- 22 Timber defect extending from the middle outward
- 24 Houseparents' charge
- 26 Minor German count
- 27 It bats
- 30 Victor at Thermopylae, 480 B.C.
- 32 "It" author Glyn
- 33 Dressage order
- 34 Tapside topper
- 37 Arab League member
- 39 Result of submarine activity

DOWN

- 1 Heavyweight champ after Cernia
- 2 A little of a lot?
- 3 London Magazine essayist
- 4 Rastafarian ingredient
- 5 Rock group booster
- 6 Not work very hard
- 7 Surrounding sentences, maybe
- 8 "The enemy is upon us!"
- 9 When the Feast of Lots is observed
- 10 Certain for
- 11 Little Rhody, with "the"
- 12 Nibbles
- 13 Fish stocked in ornamental pools
- 21 Forecast of a sort
- 22 Rare child
- 23 Soap, e.g.
- 27 Revolutionary War commander
- 28 College endowment, often
- 29 Entertainment center
- 31 Characters in "Macbeth" and "Richard III"
- 32 Part of A.A.R.P.
- 33 Fail to see
- 34 A.A.R.P.'s role, often
- 40 Cassoulet ingredient
- 43 Comes by
- 44 Textile fiber color
- 46 Swell
- 50 Left
- 51 Enjoined



© New York Times/Edited by Will Shortz

Solution to Puzzle of Feb. 18

STARR POOL ALMA
NOVAE ERTE GOES
CROSSCROSS EDNA
COMPEAS BONEUP
TRIEDOUT
ASE TAKESTAKES
CLEARINGS AGILE
RUNGON AGENDA
ALALA DISSENTER
DATESDATES TER
EYAGERES
TREASP ATALLOS
HONG PUMPSUMPS
EMIL LACE PLAIT
MODE ERAS YURTS

DOWN

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- 43 Comes by
- 44 Textile fiber color
- 46 Swell
- 50 Left
- 51 Enjoined

See our
International
Framefrises
every Wednesday
in The Intermarket

Too Modern, but, Oh, the Skiing

By Eric Weinberger

CRANS-MONTANA, Switzerland — I had always wanted to ski Crans-Montana, even in the full knowledge that its slopes were easy and the town was modern, in the way a classic Swiss alpine resort should not be. What could be said about Crans was that it was glamorous, and that was enough for me.

When the two old mountain villages of Crans-sur-Sierre and Montana-Verma began marketing themselves about 25 years ago as a single resort — one of the largest in Switzerland — they shed not only their separate identities, but also their age. The supposed difference between Crans and Montana — Crans swank and stylish, its streets lined with clothing boutiques and jewelry stores, Montana a little smaller, more rustic and old-fashioned — was lost on me when I arrived for five days in January last year. I was never sure where Crans ended and Montana began.

Occupying a wooded, south-facing site on a high plateau above the Rhone valley, Crans-Montana has lost nearly all trace of its 19th-century origins. Awash now in a sea of modern chalets and hotels, most of them A-frames of four, five or six stories of no architectural distinction, the resort is dominated by the spiky form of the Crans-Ambassador Hotel bulging through the trees above Montana.

If not for these trees, the attractive, winding paths and the occasional frozen pond or lake one comes across rather unexpectedly, the resort would be irredeemably ugly. But I had the good fortune to arrive during a blizzard, when nearly two meters of snow descended over two days, and a thick layer of snow made the town almost beautiful.

Because of the snowfall, I lost most of my first day's skiing. Above the tree line at Cry d'Err, reached by three gondolas (two from Crans, one from Montana), the winds had picked up dangerously, and skiing above the mistification in the woods was prohibited. There was also the risk of avalanche.

As I waited for better news at the bottom, before finally going up around noon for whatever tree skiing I could safely find in the poor visibility of the lower runs, I could hear the pops of explosions. The ski patrol had begun what would be two days of controlled dynamiting in the most exposed slopes and steepest ridges to induce avalanches then, rather than later. But when the explosions were over and the sun came out, Crans-Montana had become a powder-skier's paradise.

I learned skiing on hard-packed, sometimes icy pistes, and thus never developed much of a powder-skiing

style. So I cheated, renting the shorter, wider skis commonly known as Fat Boys, which meant my tips would always float to the top in deep powder. To my surprise, I found they were nearly as effective on piste as off. The edge holds, and sweeping turns at high speed are steady, with little chattering underneath to rattle the skier's balance.

Once up Cry d'Err, I searched for possibilities, hoping to stay one step ahead of the snowboarders looking to make fresh tracks, and one step behind the Sno-Cats and lift attendants working diligently throughout the day to open new terrain and dig out buried lifts. Whatever the conditions, it's best to get away from the crowds of Cry d'Err as fast as possible — either into the woods toward Merbe or higher at Bellalui.

As soon as the lift to Bellalui opened, I was quick to pounce. Once there, I plunged down its steeply slanting shelf, the jumping-off point for some of

corner floor-to-ceiling window of the modern restaurant above the glacier's vast expanse, watching the clouds fill the gap between the northern peaks. Switzerland seemed to extend endlessly in mountain whiteness.

From Plaine Morte, the only way down is a long, occasionally bumpy intermediate trail unwinding through a tremendous chasm to Toulou. All along the trail are the remnants of avalanches, induced by nature or dynamite. We returned to Cry d'Err on the slow, stately chairlifts at Barmaz and Nationale for a final, stunning schuss straight into the setting sun.

The southern Alps confronted us again, this time from a point 1,000 meters below Plaine Morte, where we rode the cusp of the slope into a sea of clouds swelling up from the valley floor. At the tree line, we plunged into the gray and murky, down to Crans.

In both Crans and Montana, convenience is important, particularly for those without a car. So I had seated on a room at the Hotel National. Its lounge and dining room were not nearly as attractive as those of other hotels I visited, but my room was comfortable, and the location — right above the center of Crans — made it a good pick.

I always enjoyed skiing at the end of the day across two parking lots and down a street right to the hotel boot room, until pebbles seeded along the road put a stop to that rather questionable practice. That night, I dreamed of the woods, where all Crans-Montana's skiing ends, the clearings and trails cut from the forest, and of the reflexive turns a skier must make with lightning speed.

The resort has a profusion of paths for walkers (all posted, incidentally, better than the pistes), and 50 kilometers (31 miles) of trails for cross-country skiers, who are particularly well-rewarded here. A place where all this comes together is right in the heart of town, at the larger of the two golf courses on the high plateau. Around me, cross-country skiers glided up and down the undulating folds of the buried greens and fairways.

THE SNOW, now four days old, glinted sharply like crystals or cut diamonds, a sight not lost on two young Italian couples in furs walking in front of me, with a dog and a baby carriage. Urging their wives into the snow for a photo opportunity, the two men clicked their cameras as the women waded in, falling, while their dog bounded playfully, licking at their faces. For them, I suppose, it had the makings of a perfect day, and from our spot in a clearing, with Crans-Montana's celebrated sun and views, I knew that there were more such days ahead and I felt a sense of glamour comfortably restored.

Eric Weinberger, who often writes about European skiing, wrote this for The New York Times.

BOOKS

FACE-TIME

By Erik Tarloff. 249 pages.

\$23. Crown Publishers.

Reviewed by Michiko Kakutani

TO GET a sense of just how drastically the Washington political scene — along with the Washington political novel — has changed over the last few decades, compare Allen Drury's "Advice and Consent," published exactly 40 years ago, with the hot political novel of the moment, Erik Tarloff's "Face-Time."

Drury's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel concerned a Senate confirmation battle over a nominee for secretary of state; the slight but entertaining "Face-Time" concerns an extramarital affair between the president of the United States and the girlfriend of his chief speechwriter. Tarloff's novel has already created a buzz within the Washington dinner party set that the author and his wife, Laura Tyson, former chairman of President Bill Clinton's Council of Economic Advisors, used to frequent during their years in the capital.

Given today's political reality, it is no surprise that Drury's brand of fiction — which for all its melodramatic invested government dealings with an air of gravitas — should have given way to a considerably cruder, more satiric type of fiction.

Nor is it any surprise that novels that only a few years ago were dismissed as ludicrous fantasies now seem more in touch with our tabloid Zeitgeist.

Tarloff's novel gains much of its heat from its portrait of a president (or would-be president) who bears more than a passing resemblance to Clinton. Tarloff's president, one Charles (Chuck) W. Sheffield by name, may be less touchy-feely than Clinton and decidedly bolder, but he, too, is a politician blessed with "plain dumb luck" and high approval ratings. He is known for his gregarious

charm, his ability to compartmentalize different aspects of his life, and his tendency to leave emotional and political casualties in his wake.

As one character observes of Sheffield: "He never is scathed, is he? Other people get scathed in his stead. The designated scapegoats, you might say. He leaves great trains of mutilated de guerre in his wake as he blithely follows his bliss. Perhaps it's because others are unaccountably willing to do his dirty work for him."

Through Tarloff's narrator, Ben Krause, we also learn that President Sheffield is an inveterate womanizer, a Don Juan who covets other men's women. Much to Ben's dismay, one of the president's current paramours turns out to be Gretchen Burns, Ben's own sexy and sexually pragmatic girlfriend, who in a typical Washington moment manages to turn men on by slipping into a turtleneck and a nice pair of pleated herringbone tweed pants.

Clearly, Ben is another variation on that other stock character in recent political fiction, the smart, young George Stephanopoulos clone who has surfaced in everything from "Primary Colors" to a host of movies, from "The American President" to "Broken Arrow" to "City Hall." In the case of "Face-Time," he is the president's chief speechwriter, an ambitious yuppie who cherishes his access or "face time" with the president.

While Tarloff clearly knows his way around Washington, he does not regale the reader with the sort of insider dish that Joe Klein and Sally Quinn lavished on their novels. The story he tells of the sex triangle among Ben, Gretchen and the president is not predicated upon sharply observed little vignettes, comic cameos or even a political agenda. Rather, it has two very simple points to make: that the sex-and-power equation reigns supreme in Washington, trumping both love-and-death and eros-and-lucres; and that

powerful men like the president are apt to exercise "noblesse merite" — that is, "the opposite of noblesse oblige," the assumption that they are entitled in ways that other mortals are not.

"Face-Time" gets off to a shaky start. The reader can feel Tarloff, a playwright and screenwriter who has worked on such movies as "Aladdin" and "Car 54, Where Are You?" trying to get the gist of writing a novel. It also suffers from occasional lapses of plausibility. Its supporting cast members, including Gretchen and Sheffield, have the emotional life of cartoons, and their utterances often devolve into B-movie clichés.

Still, the story gradually picks up steam, immersing the reader in Ben's tortured (and often comical) efforts to cope with Gretchen's infidelity and the knowledge that he is being cuckolded by the most powerful man in the world, the most alpha of all alpha males.

Along the way, Tarloff dispenses the sort of observations that might as easily be found in an op-ed piece these days as in a novel. His hero, Ben, observes that President Sheffield was not Caligula — he was simply a fellow with sexual appetites, a guy "who found himself in a position where he had the wherewithal, along with the vanity and indiscretion, to indulge them when he shouldn't."

Still, Ben declines to shrug off the president's affair with Gretchen as "a mistake." "A mistake?" he says. "I don't think so. A mistake is when you goof once. An affair spread over several months, with God knows how many trysts, an affair that persists even after it's been discovered, that goes way beyond mistake. Mistake doesn't begin to cover it."

Except, of course, that in today's Washington, it depends on how you define "mistake"; it depends on how you define the word "it."

New York Times Service

BRIDGE

By Alan Truscott

IT might surprise many to know that vice is more common in Britain than it is in the United States. We are involved here with the arcane world of bridge squeezes, one of which is named after a useful gripping tool called a vise on the U.S. side of the Atlantic.

Terence Reese named it a vice squeeze in his classic work "Master Play." The book was recently updated by Barry Rigal, an Englishman who lives in Manhattan, and he encountered this rare situation in the diagrammed deal at the New York Regional Championships in December. His opening bid of one no-trump ended the bidding, and after the normal but unfortunate lead of the diamond

four, he was looking for overtricks. The ten won in dummy, and the club king was led, losing to the ace. West returned the diamond queen, and after winning with the ace South cashed the queen and jack of clubs.

A heart was led to the ten, and after taking the king West led a third diamond, establishing a winner. South won trick, and the nine was played from dummy. Rigal had emerged with nine tricks, a triumph of vice. Or vice.

The ending is shown at left. A heart was led from dummy, and to avoid being endplayed East had to win his ace and exit with the nine. This ruined West, whose spades were gripped in the vice, or possibly vice, of dummy's queen-nine. If he had thrown a spade, South would have played the ace and another to establish a winner in the dummy.

West therefore threw his diamond winner, established with great effort. But South was alive to the situation. He led a low spade, and played low from dummy when West

put in the ten. West had to lead from the jack at the 12th trick, and the nine was played from dummy. Rigal had emerged with nine tricks, a triumph of vice. Or vice.

NORTH (D)
Q 8 8
J 6 2
10 9 5
K J 9 7
WEST
J 10 4
Q 7 4
Q J 6 4
A 10 3
EAST
K 7 5
Q A 8 5
Q 8 2
4 5
SOUTH
A 6 3
Q 10 3
Q A 7
K 8 4
East and West were vulnerable.
The bidding:
North East South West
Pass Pass 1 N.T. Pass
Pass Pass
West led the diamond four.

INTERNATIONAL

Kurdish Party And Israel Look for Way To Back Off

The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israel woke up Thursday morning and found it may have acquired a new enemy — the Kurds.

Only two days earlier, few in Israel paid much attention to the violent Kurdish protests at dozens of embassies and consulates across Europe.

But then Kurdish and German news organizations suggested that the Israeli spy agency Mossad helped Turkey track the Kurdish rebel leader Abdullah Ocalan.

Events quickly spun out of control, despite Israel's vehement denial of involvement in the capture of Mr. Ocalan this week in Kenya.

Three Kurds who forced their way into Israel's consulate in Berlin were gunned down and killed Wednesday by Israeli security guards. On Thursday, an Israeli newspaper quoted a Kurdish leader as saying that Israel had become a chief target for revenge attacks.

Ahmed Yaman, a spokesman for a Rome-based Kurdish umbrella group, told the daily Yediot Ahronoth that such strikes would be carried out against Israel in Turkey and the Middle East.

But Mizgin Sen, a spokeswoman in Brussels for Mr. Ocalan's Kurdish Workers Party, said the group had never targeted Israel and would not do so.

"The Kurds are angry and disappointed about the Berlin shooting," but we are not going to wage our war in Europe or anywhere else," she said.

Security has been beefed up at Israeli diplomatic missions in Europe and at Ben-Gurion International Airport near Tel Aviv.

Israel has contacted Kurdish leaders to affirm that it is not an enemy and wants to avoid any escalation, an Israeli intelligence expert, Yossi Melman, told Israeli radio.

A diplomat confirmed that Israel has contacted Kurdish groups through third parties but would not elaborate.

Some fear that it is already too late and that Israel, a target of Palestinian terrorist attacks in the past, has become entangled in a confrontation.

Alon Liel, a diplomat at the Israeli Embassy in Turkey during the 1980s, said the shooting could have serious repercussions and suggested that the security guards may have been too hasty in opening fire.

"The last thing we need is a Kurdish front," Mr. Liel wrote in the Ma'ariv daily.

Israel has supported Kurdish rebels in Iraq, but it has not backed the Kurdish Workers Party, which has been fighting for independence in southeastern Turkey since 1984.

In recent years, Israel has formed a strong military alliance with Turkey, and they have reportedly exchanged intelligence on militant groups. The cooperation helped fuel rumors that the Mossad may have helped track Mr. Ocalan.

The Kurdish party's spokeswoman in Brussels, Ms. Sen, called on Israel to stop its collaboration with Turkey "because it is used against the Kurds."

■ Israel Denies Expanding Zone

Israel denied that it had expanded its self-declared security zone in southern Lebanon on Thursday and said it had fenced off a Lebanese village to prevent guerrilla activity by the pro-Iranian Hezbollah, Reuters reported from Jerusalem.

A senior Israeli security official said, "The activity has no political implications and there is no basis to the Lebanese allegations that the security zone has been expanded to include the village of Amoun."

He said Hezbollah guerrillas had hidden explosives and weapons in villagers' homes in the last few months and had used the village to carry out attacks against Israeli troops and the allied South Lebanese Army militia.

The largely depopulated village was barricaded at dawn by Israeli and South Lebanese Army soldiers with barbed wire and mines. Residents were forced to enter and exit through a checkpoint separating the occupied area and the rest of the south, witnesses said.

The Lebanese prime minister, Selim Hoss, condemned the move as an expansion of Israel's 14-year occupation zone in southern Lebanon.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said Israel could pull out of the area if the Lebanese government guaranteed its border security, but Beirut and its powerful patron, Syria, have refused, saying a pullout should be unconditional.



A KLA soldier loading a cartridge belt on Thursday in a machine gun in a trench at the village of Lapastica.

NATO: West May Send Top Diplomats to Belgrade in Final Effort

Continued from Page 1

they emphasized that if Yugoslavia's intransigence thwarts an agreement, it was almost certain that NATO air strikes against Serb targets would commence by early next week.

NATO's secretary-general, Javier Solana, who was given authority three weeks ago by the 16 NATO members to determine when to start air strikes, indicated he would not hesitate long before taking action.

"It would be very soon," Mr. Solana said at a news conference in Macedonia. "If an agreement is not reached, if the negotiations fail, NATO knows very well what to do."

Mr. Solana has said he would consult with allies, but he now holds full authority to order the bombing at a moment's notice and is not required to seek a consensus from the members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

In Kosovo, preparations to evacuate the 1,200 members of an international mission sent last October to verify a truce in Kosovo, which has all but collapsed, were under way.

Mrs. Albright met Thursday with Norway's foreign minister, Knut Vollebæk, who heads the 52-nation Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, responsible for the force, to discuss "the very real possibility" that the mission would need to be removed ahead of alliance air strikes.

NATO diplomats acknowledge that there were lingering anxieties among some allies about the wisdom of launching air strikes, especially in the absence of any explicit authority from the United Nations Security Council.

Russia remains adamantly opposed to bombing raids.

Diplomats said that besides the negative impact on relations with Russia, there were serious worries about whether air strikes could backfire on Western strategy.

Even if the Yugoslavs were successfully bombed back to the negotiating table, the attacks might embolden the Kosovo Liberation Army to fight on for independence — something that is anathema to the outside powers.

While NATO planes within striking range of Yugoslavia were placed on 48-hour alert, alliance defense chiefs were preparing for an alternative scenario if the two sides should come to an agreement — the immediate deployment of a vanguard peacekeeping force that would hit the ground only hours after a peace deal is signed.

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CHIRAC IN U.S. — President Jacques Chirac of France walking from a helicopter upon his arrival in Washington on Thursday. Mr. Chirac is on a two-day working visit, spending the bulk of Thursday in meetings at the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

RIGHT: Some Ready to Throw In Towel

Continued from Page 1

showed the public's unwillingness to support Mr. Clinton's impeachment and Mr. Clinton's rising ratings throughout the Monica Lewinsky scandal.

Mr. Weyrich, however, has taken these concerns to a new level, effectively surrendering to a liberal majority, and calling for what amounts to a withdrawal from the battlefield: "What steps can we take to make sure that we and our children are not infected? We need some sort of quarantine."

Using home schooling as a model, Mr. Weyrich said, "We need to drop out of this culture, and find places, even if it is where we physically are right now, where we can live godly, righteous and sober lives."

Gary Bauer, former head of the conservative Family Research Council and candidate for the Republican presidential nomination, disputed Mr. Weyrich's conclusion.

"I'm running for president, and everything I'm doing is based on the idea

that the American people are still on balance good and decent people, and they need leadership," he said. "I understand Paul Weyrich's frustration, but I'm out to prove that the conservative vision can prevail as we go into the next century."

A strategist for another Republican presidential campaign, who did not want to be identified publicly as criticizing Mr. Weyrich, an icon of conservatism, said he was raised on the belief that "winners never quit, and quitters never win."

Other conservatives who have publicly expressed fears that a majority of Americans have abandoned commitments to traditional moral values were sharply critical of Mr. Weyrich.

"I understand the temptation, but I think it's a wrong tactic," said former Judge Robert Bork, author of "Slouching Toward Gomorrah," which cited the effect of liberalism in the country's moral decline. "You have to keep alive the ideals you think are important in the public square."

In areas under its sway, there are a growing number of "military police," in black leather jackets, new black boots and distinctive gray and yellow arm bands fastened to an epaulet.

Villagers appeal to its commanders to settle disputes — a sign that the rebels are gaining authority in the ethnic Albanians' tight-knit, long-isolated and clan-based society.

Major Halitjaha and an officer known as Remi, a 28-year-old who says he commands the KLA's northern zone, running from Pristina to Podujevo, deflect political questions. On these, they say with the collective loyalty that Kosovo's Albanians often display but almost never explain, they will follow the dictates of the 50-member council that is said to direct the KLA.

Yet, Kosovo's independence is clearly their goal — not its vague status

KOSOVO: Amid Talks, Training for War

Continued from Page 1

to live together as if nothing has happened," said one fighter, who said he quit the Yugoslav police in 1989 — the year Mr. Milosevic stripped Kosovo of its autonomy — and joined the KLA in March 1997, its early days.

Major Halitjaha, a 43-year-old French-speaking physicist, is a real Kosovo radical who says he was arrested three times — in 1979, 1982 and 1986 — for agitating against the Yugoslav government in Belgrade.

He says he "took up the gun" in 1996, after the Dayton settlement for Bosnia produced nothing for Kosovo.

"The international community spent seven years telling us to wait and pursue a peaceful path with the Serbs, the people who destroyed peace in the Balkans," he said.

"We had so little space to move, and it was crushed to the point that we were obligated to use force to breathe."

"Full disarmament for us is an impossibility," he added.

Mr. Halitjaha wears no insignia of rank and is known here simply as Commander Sadik. He said that a guarantee of independence now would be much clearer for everyone, including the Serbs. Failing that, a guarantee of a referendum on Kosovo's independence, after a three-year interim accord, "could be O.K."

But with the West promising neither, he said, "such vagueness will lead to war again from the Serbs as soon as the West gets bored and leaves."

As the "guardians of peace," he said, the members of the KLA "must always be present, with arms and forces."

"Would you in America sleep happily if your peace was guaranteed by a force of Russians and Chinese?" he asked.

The fighters and incipient political structure of the rebel army are not hard to find in this nominally Serbian province, where barely 10 percent of the 2 million inhabitants are Serbs.

Traveling south from Pristina, the provincial capital, the last Serbian police checkpoint is just outside Suva Reka, in a large house destroyed last summer in a scorched-earth campaign by Serbian security forces — an assault that drove tens of thousands from their homes, ultimately outraged the West and brought the KLA thousands of new recruits.

Less than half a kilometer away is the first KLA checkpoint. The rebel soldiers there sport new boots and belt-fed machine guns.

In this country within a country, the KLA moves openly and with confidence. While much about the rebel force is mysterious — including its size — it has apparently managed its growth with skill and discipline.

The rebel army was hobbled, but not destroyed, by the Serbs' summer offensive.

It has re-emerged since October, when more than 1,000 unarmed Western "verifiers" entered Kosovo under the auspices of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and, in effect, helped to restrain the Serb military.

The rebels are believed to control more than a third of Kosovo, both day and night, and they claim a large, though still clandestine, presence in Kosovo's cities.

Now that it is taken seriously by both the Serbs and the West, the KLA is turning away recruits. Its fighters wear new fatigues from Germany or Switzerland, where ethnic Albanian exiles have long agitated against Serbian rule and collected money to fight it.

Despite their new guns, typically smuggled in from Albania, rebel commanders say they have few heavy weapons, except for some armored personnel carriers captured from the Serbs.

But the KLA, which has five avowed members on the 16-man ethnic Albanian delegation at the negotiations in France, is also taking on a more political presence on the ground.

In areas under its sway, there are a growing number of "military police," in black leather jackets, new black boots and distinctive gray and yellow arm bands fastened to an epaulet.

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Yet, Kosovo's independence is clearly their goal — not its vague status

as a largely self-governing entity within unchanged borders.

"We will put our weapons in warehouses only when we have liberated Kosovo," Mr. Remi told reporters in Lapastica after a visit from William Walker, the American diplomat who directs the contingent of cease-fire monitors.

"Our general staff is fighting for the freedom of Kosovo, and I don't expect to receive any order to disarm or disband."

Major Halitjaha concedes that it will be difficult to suddenly "pull the spark plugs" out of the rebel army. In Bosnia, the Dayton settlement was reached only after all sides became exhausted by three and a half years of war.

In Kosovo, the KLA is on the rise and believes victory is inevitable. Its opponents in the Serbian security forces insist, correctly or not, that only Western interference prevents them from clobbering, if not destroying the rebel army.

Certainly the officer candidates here are being taught the political and military tactics of wars of liberation, from the Algerian revolt against France in the 1950s and the Chechen struggle against Moscow to the Palestinians' long effort to win their own state.

BRIEFLY

Russian Opposes Missile Pact Talks

MOSCOW — A Russian Defense Ministry official said Thursday that Moscow had no plans to discuss with the United States any changes to the bilateral anti-ballistic missile treaty.

The Inter-Tass news agency quoted Colonel General Leonid Ivashov, the often-outspoken head of international cooperation at the ministry, as saying: "Russia is against changing the treaty as it sees no reasons to alter it."

General Ivashov made his comments as a U.S. Defense Department delegation began talks in Moscow.

"Russia is not negotiating with the United States on any changes to the 1972 ABM treaty, although they are trying to lure us into such talks," General Ivashov said.

The general said Moscow was worried by Washington's decision to boost spending on anti-missile systems and said he suspected that the United States might end up confronting Russia with a fait-accompli. (Reuters)

Nigerians to Elect Assembly Saturday

ABUJA, Nigeria — Up to 40 million Nigerians will vote on Saturday in National Assembly elections marking the last step before a presidential ballot intended to bring military rule to an end after 15 years.

The vote for the 360-member House of Representatives and 109 senators is also a key test before the Feb. 27 presidential elections for a former military ruler, General Olusegun Obasanjo, who is trying to regain power after 20 years, and a rival, Olu Falae.

It is the first chance Nigerians have had to elect national representatives under General Abdulsalam Abubakar's plan to restore democracy to the oil-producing country of 108 million people on May 29. (Reuters)

Zimbabwe's Ban On Strikes Fought

HARARE, Zimbabwe — Zimbabwe's parliamentary legal committee has ruled that President Robert Mugabe's decree banning strikes for six months is unconstitutional, according to a report published Thursday.

The committee, set up to ensure that government legislation complies with the national bill of rights, said the order, which outlawed mass action for six months from December, violated the right to free expression and assembly.

The committee report has not been made public but its contents were published by the independent Financial Gazette newspaper.

Mr. Mugabe, who was rocked by a series of violent protests over wages, prices and taxes last year, slapped the ban on strikes in December under sweeping presidential powers.

The decree, which lapses after six months if it is not renewed, stipulated heavy fines and jail terms of up to three years for those who violated the ban. (Reuters)

Rivalry Stalls Pact On Bioengineering

CARTAGENA, Colombia — United Nations-sponsored negotiations on regulating trade in genetically modified organisms have been transformed into an international trade battle that could hurt a rapidly growing business, according to biotechnology officials.

Little apparent headway has been made at the talks attended by representatives of more than 130 nations. The discussions, an outgrowth of the 1992 Earth Summit in Brazil, are to produce a biosafety treaty by Tuesday. (AP)

KURDS: Arrest of Ocalan Sweeps Aside Long-Simmering Differences

Continued from Page 1

It said 15 protesters also had been injured when security forces retaliated.

"Certain people among the group of sympathizers of the separatist terrorist organization opened fire on security forces asking them to disperse," the agency said. "When police retaliated, 15 of the demonstrators were injured."

Elsewhere, gasoline bombs were thrown at two Turkish travel agencies in the German port of Bremen, and Kurdish protesters forced their way into the regional United Nations headquarters in Vienna.

In Greece, the ministers of foreign affairs, the interior and public order quit as public criticism raged over the country's role in the arrest of Mr. Ocalan. The rebel leader, whose followers have waged a separatist war in southeastern Turkey in which more than 30,000 people have died, was seized after leaving the Greek embassy in Nairobi.

The arrest followed several months of detention and flight in Italy, Russia, Greece and elsewhere — a fugitive existence for Mr.

Ocalan, that, it now seems, provided a kind of prologue to the current drama, fueling the Kurds' anger and sense of abandonment.

"I tried to warn Western governments this would happen," said Kendal Nezan, the chairman of the moderate Kurdish Institute of Paris, which opposes the tactics of Mr. Ocalan's followers. "I said, give Ocalan asylum in exchange for a formal renunciation of violence. But the Italian government told me there was too much diplomatic pressure from America and too much economic pressure from Turkey."

The United States has defined the Kurdish Workers Party as a terrorist group and, in recent months, expressed quiet support for Mr. Ocalan's arrest and his handover to Turkey, a critical NATO ally and an important base for American air patrols over Iraq.

Mr. Nezan suggested that the effect of American policy, and the way European governments had bowed to it, had been to drive moderate Kurds toward sympathy for Mr. Ocalan's violent movement. Kurds, he added, had become convinced that the strategic importance of Turkey to the United States was

such that no Kurdish claims would ever be recognized, let alone backed, in Washington.

"Of the 850,000 Kurds in the European Union, probably 10 percent are in Mr. Ocalan's movement, and some are very militant," he said. "But a lot of people don't like his methods at all. Still, in the end they are led to feel sympathy because they are so revolted by Western policies."

Over 20 million Kurds live in southeastern Turkey and neighboring parts of Syria, Iran and Iraq. Of these, perhaps 12 million live in Turkey, where they are not recognized as a minority, which would permit them to teach in their own language.

Turks and Kurds have exchanged atrocities in recent years as Turkey pursues a campaign to eradicate any Kurdish drive for autonomy or independence.

Faced by the explosive complexity of recognizing any Kurdish claims, the frequent ruthlessness of Mr. Ocalan's methods, and the importance of Turkey as a NATO ally, Western governments have preferred to look the other way, accepting a stream of Kurdish refugees as a bearable price to pay.



A Kurdish protestor giving a victory sign Thursday as he was taken in a bus from the Greek Embassy in London.

Help Wanted:
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WASHINGTON — One
of the most important books
of the year is "The World
Is Changing" by John
H. Coatsworth, Jr., and
John H. Coatsworth, Jr.,
published by Basic Books.
The book is a collection
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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1999

PAGE 11

Help Wanted: Historians To Research Nazi Era

By Barry Meier
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Last year, Greg Bradsher, a senior archivist at the National Archives, got an urgent request from Ford Motor Co. not long after the automaker was named in a lawsuit accusing it of profiting from its German operations in the Nazi era.

Ford's idea: to send a team of 30 historians and researchers to a government document repository so they could hunt down every scrap of paper dealing with Ford's activities in World War II.

When Mr. Bradsher replied that there were not enough library carts to accommodate such a team, Ford offered to ship its own carts. Eventually, Ford relented, trimming its request to six people.

For banks, insurers and companies like Ford, the mounting wave of Holocaust-related lawsuits has created both a litigation and public-relations nightmare. But the lawsuits also have created a miniboom for one unlikely group, historians and research specialists.

"You have to think in terms of corporate memories," Mr. Bradsher said. "There is probably no one around who knows anything about this stuff, and for many of them these lawsuits are hitting them out of the blue."

As a result, a growing number of corporations, from Ford to General Motors Corp. to Bertelsmann AG, the German publishing company, have hired well-known academics to write their wartime histories or scour ancient file rooms worldwide for damaging or exculpatory information.

At stake are hundreds of millions of dollars in settlements, potential public embarrassment and even business complications. And often the race is simply for companies to find disquieting information before their adversaries do.

The disclosures can be unsettling. Deutsche Bank AG said recently that independent historians it hired had found records confirming that the bank had helped finance the building of the Auschwitz death camp.

Other companies have contracted out research to small companies that use graduate students and others to pore over dusty records at repositories like the National Archives. Plaintiffs' lawyers also have assembled competing teams of historical experts, including some with far darker views of corporate behavior than the researchers hired by companies.

The rush by companies to hire historians also has touched off a public debate in academic circles, including an exchange of fire between opposing groups in journals like *The Times Literary Supplement*.

In a recent article, Michael Pinto-Duschinsky, a professor at Brunel University in London, asserted that compe-

nies that hired academics to investigate their Nazi-era ties either tried to hamstring historians or retained researchers who viewed corporate wartime transgressions as unavoidable.

"Among certain corporate historians, there is an ideology that corporations are unfairly maligned and that they are less powerful than they are made out to be," Mr. Pinto-Duschinsky said in a recent telephone interview.

But academics hired by companies to investigate their wartime roles insist that they are given the freedom and resources to seek out the truth.

Saul Friedlander, a history professor at the University of Tel Aviv, said he was approached recently by officials of Bertelsmann after an article in a Swiss magazine that accused the company of, among other things, publishing pro-Nazi and anti-Semitic books in the Nazi years.

Mr. Friedlander said he insisted before taking the job that Bertelsmann give him and fellow researchers unfettered access to its archives and that it forgo control over the fruits of that research.

Within 30 minutes, Mr. Friedlander said, he had received a fax from Thomas Middelhoff, the company's chairman, agreeing to those terms.

"He gave me the strong feeling that he wanted this whole thing cleaned up in every detail," said Mr. Friedlander, who also teaches at the University of California at Los Angeles.

The recent demand for World War II research began several years ago, when Swiss banks were accused of keeping assets deposited before the Holocaust by Jews and others who were later killed by the Nazis.

The World Jewish Congress hired young researchers like Miriam Kleiman to review Nazi-era documents at the National Archives.

"I was between jobs, and I had free time," Ms. Kleiman said.

But as the pace of Holocaust litigation intensified, the stakes rose. Ms. Kleiman was soon lured away by a class-action law firm in Washington that has filed many Holocaust-related lawsuits.

While some researchers at the National Archives still wear blue jeans, it is not uncommon these days to spot corporate researchers wearing suits and gold cuff links.

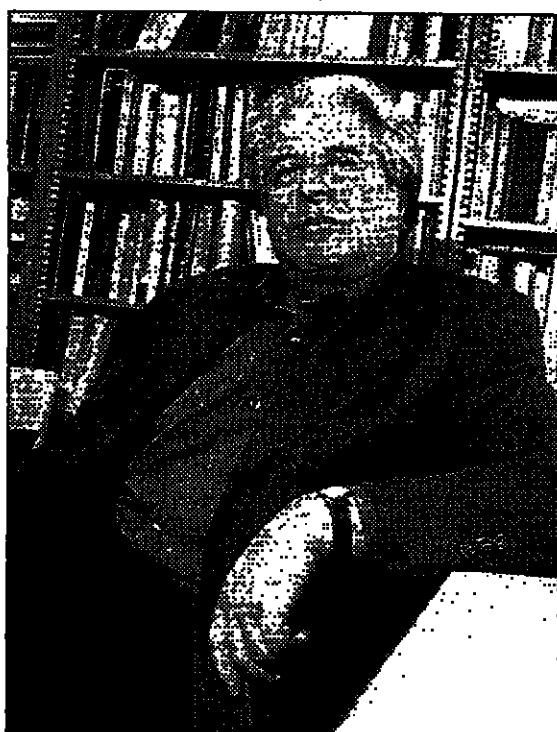
"Some of those people have limousines picking them up," Ms. Kleiman said.

With Holocaust-related battles being fought in the forum of public opinion, the type of corporate firepower brought to bear on this peculiar paper chase can be awesome. Soon after being sued in March, Ford assembled two research teams with a total of 40 to 50 people, said

See HISTORY, Page 12

Defending History

Saul Friedlander, a history professor at the University of Tel Aviv, was approached by the German publisher Bertelsmann for research on the war years. He said he was granted unfettered access to company archives, adding that he felt the company "wanted this whole thing cleared up."



Marion Roth/News Service

Lafontaine Speaks, but ECB Doesn't Budge

FRANKFURT — The European Central Bank kept its key interest rate unchanged at 3 percent during a regular meeting Thursday attended by Germany's finance minister, Oskar Lafontaine, an advocate of lowering rates.

Mr. Lafontaine has steadily argued since taking office last fall that Europe's central bankers should lower rates to help spur growth and ease stubborn unemployment.

In the 11 nations that adopted the single currency, the euro, unemployment stands at an average 10.8 percent. His comments have mostly been met

with strong statements by central bankers defending the bank's independence from political influence.

For the first time Thursday, Mr. Lafontaine made an appeal during Germany's regular biweekly meeting.

But Mr. Lafontaine, who was permitted to speak but not to vote, left the meeting with the governing council still in session. He emphasized that he was leaving before any decisions were made.

The ECB had been widely expected to leave rates unchanged, given the weaker euro. In late trading Thursday, the euro was worth \$1.1205. It ended its initial

trading Jan. 1 at a rate of \$1.1747.

Earlier on Thursday in Brussels, Mr. Lafontaine said there were convincing economic reasons for cutting rates, referring to recent analyses made by European retail banks that said a rate cut would not push up inflation.

Interest rates in the euro bloc were set at a uniform 3 percent before the single currency was inaugurated.

Chancellor Gerhard Schröder's economic policy adviser, Klaus Grottelmann, said Wednesday that he expected the ECB to cut its rate as much as half a percentage point this year.

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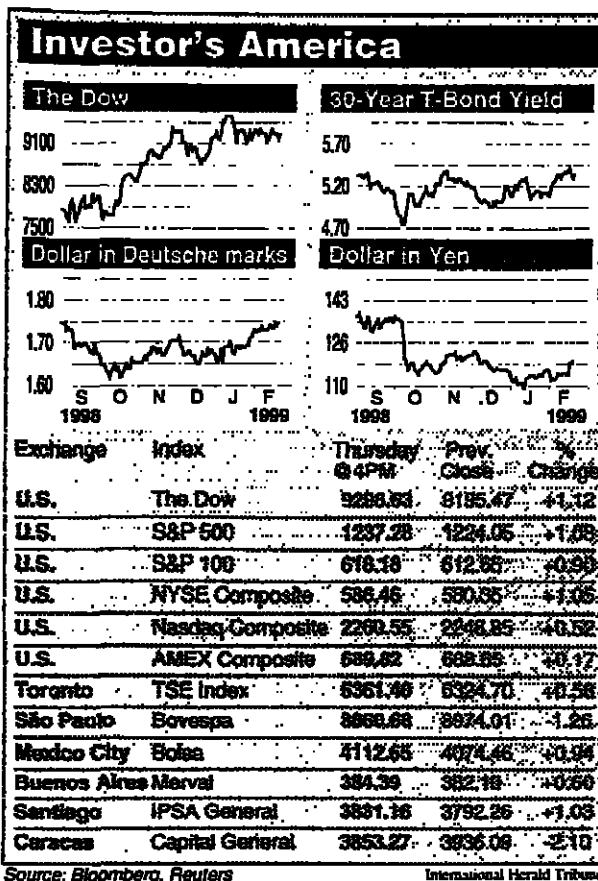
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THE AMERICAS



Chavez to Seek Emergency Tax Measures

By Diana Jean Schemo
New York Times Service

Venezuela's new president said he would seek special authority from Congress to impose tax and spending changes by emergency decree.

In a televised speech Wednesday, President Hugo Chavez said his 15-page package of "enabling laws" was necessary to "take on and overcome the extremely difficult situation that Venezuela is confronting."

His agenda calls for a reduction in government spending, changes in the sales tax and a delay in some foreign debt payments.

Mr. Chavez took office two weeks ago, inheriting a deeply troubled economy from President Rafael Caldera.

The government's budget deficit is equivalent to 9 percent of the entire economy, and more than 30 percent of the national budget is earmarked for foreign debt payments this year.

With the price of oil, the country's biggest export, at a 25-year low, Venezuela would seem to have little cause for optimism.

Mr. Chavez's announcement amounted to his first policy statement on the economy, and it suggested that the new president would not allow plans for spending cuts to become bogged down in congressional wrangling.

Political and economic analysts in Venezuela said the president's economic project suggested that he wanted to avoid having the country's

financial problems become a bargaining chip with congressional opponents. Some of the measures, such as streamlining government, would appeal to orthodox economists, while others, such as seeking a grace period on foreign debt, are likely to win support among the poor.

But the president appeared determined to tackle the country's dire economic troubles head-on rather than maneuver to gain popularity.

"This is the first time that he's actually addressing Congress on fundamental matters of national importance, and he's doing so fully within the established rules of the democratic process," said Eric Eckvall, a Caracas-based political consultant. Mr. Chavez as an army officer started an unsuccessful coup

against the civilian government of Venezuela in 1992.

The enabling legislation includes measures to reduce a wholesale tax by one percentage point, to 15.5 percent, but to broaden it as a value-added tax, as well as a proposal for a one-year tax of half a percentage point on financial transactions. Under his proposed law, the government would begin collecting income tax on a monthly basis.

Mr. Chavez said his package included "payment deferrals" on foreign debt to reduce the fiscal deficit. He said he would seek to negotiate a "grace period" on foreign debt that had not already been restructured, but he said the package would also include measures to protect foreign and domestic investments.

Bond Buyers Get Behind Argentina

New York Times Service

NEW YORK — In a sign that investors still are willing to lend to the right emerging-market country, Argentina easily sold \$1 billion of new 20-year bonds this week to American and European investors.

But the deal also showed that the investors still were demanding high interest rates and some extra sweeteners.

The bond sale Wednesday, with J.P. Morgan & Co. as the lead underwriter, was one of the biggest emerging-market deals since Brazil devalued its currency last month. Mexico also did a \$1 billion deal two weeks ago.

Argentina's success — there were \$2 billion of bids — indicates that the financial-market fallout from the Brazilian devaluation has not been intense. In fact, some analysts are arguing that because of Argentina's tight link to the U.S. dollar and other economic policies, it might be able to "delink" it from Brazil despite the two countries' strong economic ties.

Still, the deal was expensive, although Argentina can get a better deal than other emerging-market countries.

The 20-year bonds were priced to yield 12.177 percent, 6.78 percentage points above the yield on a comparable Treasury bond.

By comparison, however, the J.P. Morgan index of all major emerging-market debt showed a spread of 11.66 percentage points above U.S. Treasury issues as of Wednesday.

Dollar Advances As U.S. Economy Keeps Humming

Bloomberg News

NEW YORK — The dollar rose Thursday as the yen and the euro Thursday as the U.S. economy continued to show strength.

The dollar also benefited from comments by the Japanese deputy finance minister, Koji Tanami, who joined a chorus of officials this week favoring a weaker yen. Mr. Tanami said the yen's recent decline was "not undesirable" for Japan's sinking economy.

A larger-than-expected rise in U.S. producer prices was the latest sign that the U.S. economy is still steaming. Producer prices rose 0.5 percent in January, the biggest increase in more than two years, beating expectations of a 0.1 percent increase.

The U.S. economy is "outperforming the euro zone and, of course, Japan, and that's favoring the dollar," said Fernando Medina, a currency strategist at Banco Atlantico.

The dollar rose to 119.685 yen from 118.905 yen, while the euro slipped to \$1.1204 from \$1.1240.

Before slumping this week, the yen had gained 27 percent against the dollar since mid-August.

The pound rose to \$1.6355 from \$1.6347, while the dollar rose to 1.4285 Swiss francs from 1.4233 francs.

Insurance Deal Fuels Stock Rally

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

NEW YORK — Stocks rose Thursday, led by Transamerica, as the Dutch insurer Aegon's agreement to buy the U.S. insurer for \$11.1 billion fueled optimism that others in the industry would combine.

"Whenever you get a merger in a particular sector it makes people think about valuation" of stocks in the industry, said Arnie Owen, managing director of capital markets at Credit Suisse.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 103.16 points, or 1.1 percent, to 12,373.63. Four stocks rose for every three that fell on the New York Stock Exchange. The Standard & Poor's 500-stock index gained 13.25 points, or 1.1 percent, to 1,237.28, while the Nasdaq composite index climbed 11.64 points, or 0.5 percent, to 2,260.55.

Transamerica led the gains in the

S&P 500, rising 15 1/4 to 72 3/4. Other insurers that gained on Wall Street included American International Group and Chubb.

Drugmakers rose after Glaxo Wellcome reported second-half earnings that were better than many analysts expected.

Many computer-related stocks gained after falling in the past week.

U.S. STOCKS

Dell Computer, which lost 20 percent in the previous three days, rose 1 7/16 to \$3. Intel rose 3/4 to 12 3/4, and International Business Machines rose 2 1/2 to 17 1/2.

But Microsoft fell 4 1/4 to 145 1/4 on investor concern about threats to the company's dominance from the Linux operating system and the landmark antitrust trial involving the No. 1 maker of software for

personal computers.

Bonds prices fell after reports on producer prices, manufacturing and employment pointed to economic resilience, leaving investors little incentive to load up on bonds.

The price of the 30-year Treasury bond fell 25/32 to 98 10/32, pushing its yield up to 5.36 percent from 5.31 percent.

The government said prices paid to factories, farmers and other producers rose 0.5 percent in January, surpassing analysts' estimates. The government will report Friday on January consumer prices. A separate report showed that fewer workers than expected had applied for first-time jobless benefits, suggesting the labor market remained robust, and the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia indicated manufacturing in the region was rebounding.

(Bloomberg, Reuters)

Very briefly:

- Mexico's gross domestic product rose 4.8 percent in 1998, President Ernesto Zedillo announced, following growth of 7 percent in 1997 and 5.2 percent in 1996.
- Brazil may adopt voluntary measures to restrict steel exports to the United States, Foreign Minister Luiz Felipe Lampreia said, in response to a plan by the U.S. Commerce Department to impose punitive duties on Brazilian exports.
- IBM Corp. will begin shipping its Netfinity line of network server computers with the free operating system Linux pre-installed alongside Microsoft's Windows NT. Linux is a highly regarded flavor of Unix.
- Northwest Airlines ordered 54 small passenger planes from Canada's Bombardier for about \$1.3 billion and took options to buy 70 more 50-seat Canadair Regional Jet aircraft.
- ABC will move more than 200 of its employees, including most of its top management, from New York to Los Angeles within the next 18 months to consolidate the management of the network at the headquarters of Walt Disney Co., ABC's parent.

Duke Energy Woos Chile Utility

Bloomberg News

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina — Duke Energy Corp. offered more than \$2.1 billion Thursday for a 51 percent stake in the Chilean electric utility Empresa Nacional de Electricidad SA, continuing its aggressive expansion into Latin America.

Duke would pay 250 Chilean pesos (50 cents) a share and 7,500 Chilean pesos for each American depositary receipt, which represent 30 Chilean shares each. Empresa Nacional would not be able to accept the offer unless shareholders changed a bylaw that limits a single investor to a 26 percent stake in the company.

Duke is investing in power plants worldwide as it prepares for intensified competition in its home market.

U. S. STOCK MARKET DIARY

Thursday, Feb. 18

Index	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Dow Jones	12373.63	12340.50	12373.63	+33.13
S&P 500	72 3/4	72 1/4	72 3/4	+ 1/4
Nasdaq	2260.55	2248.85	2260.55	+11.70
AMEX	688.82	688.85	688.82	-0.03
Toronto	6361.40	6324.70	6361.40	+36.70
Sao Paulo	8666.68	8674.01	8666.68	-7.33
Mexico City	4112.65	4074.48	4112.65	+38.17
Buenos Aires	384.39	382.18	384.39	+2.21
Santiago	3551.36	3532.26	3551.36	+19.10
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INTERNATIONAL FUTURES

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EUROPE

SAS Profit
Rose 26%
Last Year

Bloomberg News
STOCKHOLM — Scandinavian Airlines System, Europe's sixth-largest airline, posted a 26 percent rise in 1998 pretax profit Thursday as income from plane sales overcame slower business traffic and new airport costs.

SAS's full-year pretax profit rose to 2.83 billion kronor (\$356 million) from 2.23 billion kronor, above analysts' expectations of 2.64 billion kronor from 38.93 billion kronor.

The company said its 1999 pretax profit would be "considerably lower." SAS, like rivals such as British Airways PLC, is struggling to fill business seats as companies tighten travel budgets. The airline is also facing competition in Scandinavia for the first time from low-cost carriers.

SAS has said it is cutting capacity, closing some routes and counting on its partnerships within the Star Alliance airline group to help support future earnings.

Profit in 1998 benefited from the sale of aircraft and other assets but was limited by charges for strikes in the second quarter.

The carrier was hurt by problems linked to its move to the new Gardermoen airport in Norway, said Bjorn Bakkevig, an analyst at Oslo Finans in Norway. "There were lots of cancellations at that airport due to bad weather, bad management, bad systems — everything," he said. Delays at the airport were aggravated by the airline's lack of capacity for de-icing planes.

SAS does not report net figures because it is not liable for corporate taxes. Taxes are paid in Sweden, Norway and Denmark by SAS's three parent companies.

■ 'Open-Skies' Talks Resume

After a four-month interruption, British and U.S. officials resumed talks aimed at expanding access to each other's air travel markets, which could help British Airways PLC and AMR Corp.'s American Airlines secure approval of their alliance, Bloomberg News reported from London.

The United States has made open skies a prerequisite for approving the partnership. Carriers in the United States are pushing for greater access to London's Heathrow Airport.

Glaxo Stages Strong Comeback

Rapid Growth of New Drugs Keeps Sales and Profit Intact

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches
LONDON — Glaxo Wellcome PLC said Thursday it had emerged from potentially the worst year in its recent history with sales and profits intact and a strong platform for future growth.

Pretax profit slipped just 1 percent, to £2.67 billion (\$4.36 billion), exceeding analysts' forecasts and marking a sharp recovery from a 21 percent plunge in the first half of the year. Excluding the impact of the strong pound, profit rose 5 percent. Sales held steady at £7.98 billion and were up 4 percent at constant exchange rates.

Glaxo said rapid growth of drugs for asthma, migraine and depression had made up for a loss of sales valued at more than £800 million from the expiration in 1997 of patents on two of its most profitable drugs, the ulcer remedy Zantac and Zovirax, a herpes treatment.

Asthma-drug sales alone grew 24 percent in constant-currency terms in 1998, to £2.2 billion, as newer drugs such as Flixotide, Serenit and Flixonase entered the growing \$12 billion asthma market.

"This is a really good performance and certainly above our expectations," said Stephen Ewing, an

analyst at WestLB Panmure. He said the biggest surprise was sales growth in respiratory drugs, which made up 27 percent of Glaxo's drug portfolio. "We were looking for 17 percent growth," said Mr. Ewing.

Glaxo's chairman, Sir Richard Sykes, said, "We've come through this year very strongly considering what's happened."

"It's not every year you lose £850 million worth of sales and still come out growing the business. I wouldn't like to have to do that every year."

Glaxo shares slipped 5 pence to close at £20.14. The stock has almost doubled over the past two years as the management reassured the market it could ride out the patent storm and return to double-digit sales and earnings growth in 1999 — a target that was reiterated Thursday. The group now faces no major patent expirations over the next five years.

Avoiding comment on the widespread view that Glaxo will eventually revive plans to merge with SmithKline Beecham PLC, Sir Richard said open possibility of another merger or acquisition.

(Reuters, Bloomberg)

GERMANY: Pact Averts Strike but Could Be Costly

Continued from Page 1

could leave executives with little incentive to make their own decisions.

Dieter Hundt, president of the German Employers Federation, condemned the "extorted" settlement, saying Mr. Schroeder's jobs program had "collapsed before it began." The next set of roundtable talks is to take place next Thursday.

"The contract will lead altogether to higher labor costs, worsen the competitive situation of our companies and hinder investment," Mr. Hundt said.

To Gesamtmetall and to some private economists, the pay raise recalls IG Metall's aggressive deals of 1992 and 1995. Like this year's pay deal, those took place against the background of a cooling economy.

In both previous pay rounds, the union later drew fire for hastening recessions and forcing layoffs. Even economists with union ties warned in recent weeks that a pay raise of more than 3 percent would be unwarranted.

IG Metall's deal amounts to a "punch in the face of the jobs," said Wolfgang Franz, one of the government's Council of Economic Advisors. "It threatens jobs."

Under the arbitration of Hans-Jochen Vogel, an elder states-

man in Mr. Schroeder's Social Democratic Party, a compromise emerged at 2 A.M. on Thursday, just past the union's midnight "final deadline" to settle on its terms or face a strike beginning March 1.

The contract calls for workers to receive a one-time bonus equivalent to 1 percent of wages coupled with a 3.2 percent pay raise. The package totals 4.2 percent over 14 months.

Finance Minister Oskar Lafontaine applauded the settlement as a "sensible agreement." Mr. Lafontaine, eager to stoke the economy, had urged the unions to seek higher pay settlements to put more money in consumers' pockets.

Trying to inject unprecedented flexibility into the contract, industry wanted the bonus linked to profits, exempting struggling companies. But the union balked because it would have meant a two-tier contract that diluted its centralized wage-setting authority.

The magnitude of the pay increase threatens to keep labor tensions simmering. Initially it applies to the economic powerhouse state of Baden-Wuerttemberg, Germany's automaking heartland with companies such as DaimlerChrysler AG.

But because few other states have the prosperity of Baden-Wuerttemberg, Gesamtmetall said it would be difficult to apply the deal elsewhere as a pilot agreement.

"In particular for the Eastern German industry, it is absolutely necessary to lighten the burden," said Werner Stumppe, president of Gesamtmetall. Breaking tradition, Mr. Stumppe said he could not recommend that other districts adopt the same terms as Baden-Wuerttemberg. Mr. Hundt agreed that the contract was "not transferable to other bargaining districts."

IG Metall threatened to strike in any state that did not accept the new terms, including the economically struggling Eastern states.

The rest of Europe was also clearly in the union's sights. IG Metall said it feared the new common currency, the euro, would put downward pressure on wages by thrusting low-wage Mediterranean countries into the same bloc as high-wage Germany. With the euro only six weeks old, it wanted to push wages higher before the euro had a chance to push them lower.

The euro "exacerbates the risk of a downward spiral in wage undercutting," according to a declaration signed in December at a pan-European union conference hosted by IG Metall at its Frankfurt headquarters.

Joerg Barczynski, an IG Metall spokesman, said the settlement was intended to set "an example" for other European unions.

U.S. Listing
Is Planned
By Siemens

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches
MUNICH — Siemens AG said Thursday it planned to list its shares in the United States by 2001 as it geared up to form trans-Atlantic joint ventures or make acquisitions.

Siemens, an electronics and engineering company that already trades in American depositary receipts, will seek a full listing so it can use its own shares to buy companies in the United States, the chief executive, Heinrich von Pierer, said at its shareholders' meeting.

The company, whose products range from light bulbs to mobile phones to power plants, is asking shareholders for permission to issue as many as 70 million new shares over the next five years, which could raise 4.2 billion euros (\$4.73 billion) to fund acquisitions. The move comes as Mr. von Pierer tries to prove to investors that Siemens can move quickly to increase growth and cut unprofitable units to increase shareholder gains.

"It's not enough to turn the switches; the train also needs to leave the station," said Christian Strenger, a fund manager at Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Wertpapiere mbH, the fund unit of Deutsche Bank AG, which holds 6.2 million Siemens shares, equal to 1.1 percent of its capital.

"Siemens is changing too slowly," he said, noting that competitors such as General Electric Co. had been faster to cut costs and improve profitability.

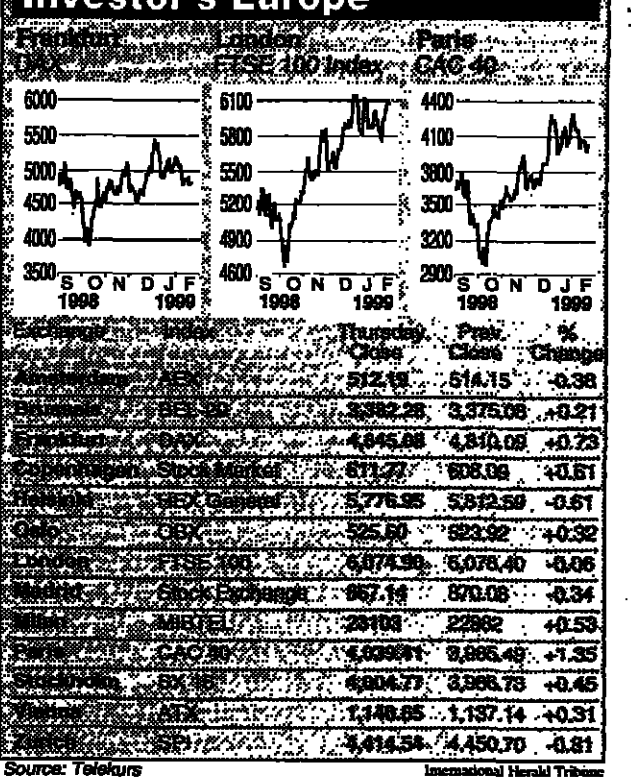
The company will convert to U.S. accounting standards by its financial year 2000 to prepare for the offering, Mr. von Pierer said. It is also moving ahead with plans to spin off its semiconductor business, passive components unit, electron tubes business and electromechanical components business.

Siemens also said Thursday it would not change sales and profit forecasts for this year despite the higher costs from a wage deal with workers.

The wage agreement, which was struck early Thursday and averted a widespread strike, would increase annual costs as much as 900 million Deutsche marks (\$1.1 billion), Mr. von Pierer said before the shareholders' meeting.

(Bloomberg, Reuters)

Investor's Europe



Very briefly:

- Gold Fields Ltd. agreed to a \$1.5 billion merger with Driefontein Consolidated Ltd. in a bid to gain control of some of South Africa's richest gold deposits in the latest of a series of alliances between South African gold companies.
- Hoechst AG, the German drug company, said it remained confident that Kuwait, its main shareholder, would overcome its reservations about the company's planned merger with Rhone-Poulenc SA.
- Audi AG, the luxury-car unit of Volkswagen AG, has increased production of its sporty TT Coupe 25 percent after unexpectedly strong demand led to waiting times of five to seven months for delivery.
- Cegetel, France's private phone operator, cut its rates in reaction to a reduction by France Telecom, keeping its prices 10 percent to 15 percent lower than those of the former state monopoly.
- Britain's retail sales rose a sharp 1.1 percent in January from December as bargain-hunters snapped up cut-price goods at annual sales, the Office for National Statistics said.
- Carrefour SA, France's global food retailer, said its operating profit rose 9.5 percent to 2.55 billion francs (\$437 million), in the second half on strong domestic sales.
- Rank Group PLC, Britain's biggest casino operator and the owner of the Hard Rock chain of restaurants, registered a 24 percent drop in second-half profit, to £120 million (\$196.8 million) as poor weather and declining consumer confidence hampered earnings at its British vacation divisions.
- The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and International Finance Corp., the private lending arm of the World Bank, will lend \$400 million to companies developing the Chyray oil field in the Caspian Sea off Azerbaijan.
- Unilever NV appointed its deputy chairman, Antony Burgmans, as chairman.

(Bloomberg, Reuters, AFP)

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

Thursday, Feb. 18

Prices in local currencies

in euros for ECU countries

Tel Aviv

High Low Close Prev.

Amsterdam

ABN-AMRO

Alcoa

Alkermes

Amgen

Arista

AstraZeneca

Aventis

Bayer

Boehringer Ingelheim

Bristol-Myers Squibb

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High Low Close Prev.

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High Low Close Prev.

Singapore

The 2,000 most traded stocks of the day.
 Nationwide prices not reflecting late trades elsewhere.
 The Associated Press.

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Continued on Page 15

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Thursday's 4 P.M.

Thursday's 4 P.M.
The 1,000 most traded National Market securities
In terms of dollar value, updated twice a year.
The Associated Press

12 Month		Stock	Div	Yld	PE	52		Low	Latest	Change
High	Low					Yr	High			

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
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Type	12 Month			Div	Yld	PE	52		
	High	Low	Stock				Week High	Low	Latest
Common	390	190	200	20	4	35	100	200	200
Preferred	170	170	170				170	170	170
Common	4	4	4				4	4	4
Preferred	100	100	100				100	100	100
Common	200	200	200				200	200	200
Preferred	100	100	100				100	100	100
Common	100	100	100				100	100	100
Preferred	100	100	100				100	100	100
Common	100	100	100				100	100	100
Preferred	100	100	100				100	100	100
Common	100	100	100				100	100	100
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Common	100	100	100				100	100	100
Preferred	100	100	100				100	100	100
Common	100	100	100				100	1	

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Days	12 Month		Stock	Div	Yld	PE	52 Weeks		Low	Volume
	High	Low					High	Low		
12/1	76 1/4	104 1/4	100	1.00	17.77	68 1/4	83 1/4	68 1/4	83 1/4	100
12/2	76 1/4	104 1/4	100	1.00	17.77	68 1/4	83 1/4	68 1/4	83 1/4	100
12/3	76 1/4	104 1/4	100	1.00	17.77	68 1/4	83 1/4	68 1/4	83 1/4	100
12/4	76 1/4	104 1/4	100	1.00	17.77	68 1/4	83 1/4	68 1/4	83 1/4	100
12/5	76 1/4	104 1/4	100	1.00	17.77	68 1/4	83 1/4	68 1/4	83 1/4	100
12/6	76 1/4	104 1/4	100	1.00	17.77	68 1/4	83 1/4	68 1/4	83 1/4	100
12/7	76 1/4	104 1/4	100	1.00	17.77	68 1/4	83 1/4	68 1/4	83 1/4	100
12/8	76 1/4	104 1/4	100	1.00	17.77	68 1/4	83 1/4	68 1/4	83 1/4	100
12/9	76 1/4	104 1/4	100	1.00	17.77	68 1/4	83 1/4	68 1/4	83 1/4	100
12/10	76 1/4	104 1/4	100	1.00	17.77	68 1/4	83 1/4	68 1/4	83 1/4	100
12/11	76 1/4	104 1/4	100	1.00	17.77	68 1/4	83 1/4	68 1/4	83 1/4	100
12/12	76 1/4	104 1/4	100	1.00	17.77	68 1/4	83 1/4	68 1/4	83 1/4	100
12/13	76 1/4	104 1/4	100	1.00	17.77	68 1/4	83 1/4	68 1/4	83 1/4	100
12/14	76 1/4	104 1/4	100	1.00	17.77	68 1/4	83 1/4	68 1/4	83 1/4	100
12/15	76 1/4	104 1/4	100	1.00	17.77	68 1/4	83 1/4	68 1/4	83 1/4	100
12/16	76 1/4	104 1/4	100	1.00	17.77	68 1/4	83 1/4	68 1/4	83 1/4	100
12/17	76 1/4	104 1/4	100	1.00	17.77	68 1/4	83 1/4	68 1/4	83 1/4	100
12/18	76 1/4	104 1/4	100	1.00	17.77	68 1/4	83 1/4	68 1/4	83 1/4	100
12/19	76 1/4	104 1/4	100	1.00	17.77	68 1/4	83 1/4	68 1/4	83 1/4	100
12/20	76 1/4	104 1/4	100	1.00	17.77	68 1/4	83 1/4	68 1/4	83 1/4	100
12/21	76 1/4	104 1/4	100	1.00	17.77	68 1/4	83 1/4	68 1/4	83 1/4	100
12/22	76 1/4	104 1/4	100	1.00	17.77	68 1/4	83 1/4	68 1/4	83 1/4	100
12/23	76 1/4	104 1/4	100	1.00	17.77	68 1/4	83 1/4	68 1/4	83 1/4	100
12/24	76 1/4	104 1/4	100	1.00	17.77	68 1/4	83 1/4	68 1/4	83 1/4	100
12/25	76 1/4	104 1/4	100	1.00	17.77	68 1/4	83 1/4	68 1/4	83 1/4	100
12/26	76 1/4	104 1/4	100	1.00	17.77	68 1/4	83 1/4	68 1/4	83 1/4	100
12/27	76 1/4	104 1/4	100	1.00	17.77	68 1/4	83 1/4	68 1/4	83 1/4	100
12/28	76 1/4	104 1/4	100	1.00	17.77	68 1/4	83 1/4	68 1/4	83 1/4	100
12/29	76 1/4	104 1/4	100	1.00	17.77	68 1/4	83 1/4	68 1/4	83 1/4	100
12/30	76 1/4	104 1/4	100	1.00	17.77	68 1/4	83 1/4	68 1/4	83 1/4	100
12/31	76 1/4	104 1/4	100	1.						

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Crsg	12 Month		Stock	Div	Yr	PE	52 Wks		Low	Latest
	High	Low					High	Low		
+10	294	18	Symbol	18	20	2200	17 1/2	10	199	200
+5	199	10	199	18	20	2200	17 1/2	10	199	200
+10	294	18	Symbol	18	20	2200	17 1/2	10	199	200
+5	199	10	199	18	20	2200	17 1/2	10	199	200
+10	294	18	Symbol	18	20	2200	17 1/2	10	199	200
+5	199	10	199	18	20	2200	17 1/2	10	199	200
+10	294	18	Symbol	18	20	2200	17 1/2	10	199	200
+5	199	10	199	18	20	2200	17 1/2	10	199	200
+10	294	18	Symbol	18	20	2200	17 1/2	10	199	200
+5	199	10	199	18	20	2200	17 1/2	10	199	200
+10	294	18	Symbol	18	20	2200	17 1/2	10	199	200
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+5	199	10	199	18	20	2200	17 1/2	10	199	200
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+5	199	10	199	18	20	2200	17 1/2	10	199	200
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+10	294	18	Symbol	18	20	2200	17 1/2	10	199	200
+5	199	10	199	18	20	2200	17 1/2	10	199	200
+10	294	18	Symbol	18	20	2200	17 1/2	10	199	200
+5	199	10	199	18	20	2200	17 1/2	10	199	200
+10	294	18	Symbol	18	20	2200	17 1/2	10	199	200
+5	199	10	199	18	20	2200	17 1/2	10	199	200
+10	294	18	Symbol	18	20	2200	17 1/2	10	199	200
+5	199	10	199	18	20	2200	17 1/2	10	199	200
+10	294	18	Symbol	18	20	2200	17 1/2	10	199	200
+5	199	10	199	18	20	2200	17 1/2	10	199	200
+10	294	18	Symbol	18	20	2200	17 1/2	10	199	200
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+10	294	18	Symbol	18	20	2200	17 1/2	10	199	200
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+10	294	18	Symbol	18	20	2200	17 1/2	10	199	200
+5	199	10	199	18	20	2200	17 1/2	10	199	200
+10	294	18	Symbol	18	20	2200	17 1/2	10	199	200
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+10	294	18	Symbol	18	20	2200	17 1/2	10	199	200
+5	199	10	199	18	20	2200	17 1/2	10	199	200
+10	294	18	Symbol	18	20	2200	17 1/2	10	199	200
+5	199	10	199	18	20	2200	17 1/2	10	199	200
+10	294	18	Symbol	18	20	2200	17 1/2	10	199	200
+5	199	10	199	18	20	2200	17 1/2	10	199	200
+10	294	18	Symbol	18	20	2200	17 1/2	10	199	200
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+10	294	18	Symbol	18	20	2200	17 1/2	10	199	200
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+10	294	18	Symbol	18	20	2200	17 1/2	10	199	200
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+10	294	18	Symbol	18	20	2200	17 1/2	10	199	200
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+10	294	18	Symbol	18	20	2200	17 1/2	10	199	200
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+10	294	18	Symbol	18	20	2200	17 1/2	10	199	200
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+10	294	18	Symbol	18	20	2200	17 1/2	10	199	200
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+10	294	18	Symbol	18	20	2200	17 1/2	10	199	200
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+10	294	18	Symbol	18	20	2200	17 1/2	10	199	200
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+10	294	18	Symbol	18	20	2200	17 1/2	10	199	200
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+10	294	18	Symbol	18	20	2200	17 1/2	10	199	200
+5	199	10	199	18	20	2200	17 1/2	10	199	200
+10	294	18	Symbol	18	20	2200	17 1/2	10	199	200

Law	High	State	Stock	City	Law
1. The State of New York, in and for the County of New York, ss. I, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for said County, do hereby certify that the within and foregoing is a true and correct copy of the original of the same, as the same appears from the records of said County.	2. The State of New York, in and for the County of New York, ss. I, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for said County, do hereby certify that the within and foregoing is a true and correct copy of the original of the same, as the same appears from the records of said County.	3. The State of New York, in and for the County of New York, ss. I, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for said County, do hereby certify that the within and foregoing is a true and correct copy of the original of the same, as the same appears from the records of said County.	4. The State of New York, in and for the County of New York, ss. I, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for said County, do hereby certify that the within and foregoing is a true and correct copy of the original of the same, as the same appears from the records of said County.	5. The State of New York, in and for the County of New York, ss. I, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for said County, do hereby certify that the within and foregoing is a true and correct copy of the original of the same, as the same appears from the records of said County.	6. The State of New York, in and for the County of New York, ss. I, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for said County, do hereby certify that the within and foregoing is a true and correct copy of the original of the same, as the same appears from the records of said County.

AMEX

Thursday's 4 P.M. Close
The 150 most traded stocks of the day,
up to the closing on Wall Street.
The Associated Press

[illegible][illegible]

Stock	Sales	High	Low	Latest	Change	Stock
Crescent	310	3h	2 3/4	2 3/4	-1/4	Int'l Commodity
Crude	910	2 3/4	2 1/4	2 1/4	-1/4	Int'l Commodity
D.B.A. Index	5882	95 1/4	91 1/4	91 1/4	-1/4	Int'l Commodity
D.B.A. Tech	342	8 1/4	7 1/4	7 1/4	-1/4	Int'l Commodity
Daily A	264	3 1/4	3 1/4	3 1/4	-	Int'l Commodity
Daily Index	947	4 1/4	4 1/4	4 1/4	-	Int'l Commodity
Daily Index	1652	21 1/4	20 1/4	21 1/4	-1/4	Int'l Commodity
Daily Index	2371	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	-	Int'l Commodity
Daily Index	1422	1 1/4	1 1/4	1 1/4	-	Int'l Commodity

[illegible]

Sales	High	Low	Latest	Change	Stock	Sales	High	Low	Latest
666	7%	6%	7	+%	Reynolds	302	22%	21%	22%
222	1%	1	1%	-%	Schiff's	220	15%	15%	15%
222	1	1	1	-%	Sevens	220	7%	7	7%
222	1	2%	2%	-%	Sevens	1304	4%	4%	4%
222	13%	13%	13%	-	Sofnet	227	17%	16%	16%
222	5%	4%	5%	+%	Sofnet	227	3%	3%	3%
222	5%	5	5%	+%	Sofnet	227	4%	4%	4%
222	2%	2%	2%	-%	Sofnet	227	2%	2%	2%
222	1%	1	1	-%	Sofnet	227	12%	12%	12%

1870 1871 1872 1873 1874 1875 1876 1877 1878 1879 1880 1881 1882 1883 1884 1885 1886 1887 1888 1889 1890 1891 1892 1893 1894 1895 1896 1897 1898 1899 1900 1901 1902 1903 1904 1905 1906 1907 1908 1909 1910 1911 1912 1913 1914 1915 1916 1917 1918 1919 1920 1921 1922 1923 1924 1925 1926 1927 1928 1929 1930 1931 1932 1933 1934 1935 1936 1937 1938 1939 1940 1941 1942 1943 1944 1945 1946 1947 1948 1949 1950 1951 1952 1953 1954 1955 1956 1957 1958 1959 1960 1961 1962 1963 1964 1965 1966 1967 1968 1969 1970 1971 1972 1973 1974 1975 1976 1977 1978 1979 1980 1981 1982 1983 1984 1985 1986 1987 1988 1989 1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024 2025 2026 2027 2028 2029 2030 2031 2032 2033 2034 2035 2036 2037 2038 2039 2040 2041 2042 2043 2044 2045 2046 2047 2048 2049 2050 2051 2052 2053 2054 2055 2056 2057 2058 2059 2060 2061 2062 2063 2064 2065 2066 2067 2068 2069 2070 2071 2072 2073 2074 2075 2076 2077 2078 2079 2080 2081 2082 2083 2084 2085 2086 2087 2088 2089 2090 2091 2092 2093 2094 2095 2096 2097 2098 2099 2100 2101 2102 2103 2104 2105 2106 2107 2108 2109 2110 2111 2112 2113 2114 2115 2116 2117 2118 2119 2120 2121 2122 2123 2124 2125 2126 2127 2128 2129 2130 2131 2132 2133 2134 2135 2136 2137 2138 2139 2140 2141 2142 2143 2144 2145 2146 2147 2148 2149 2150 2151 2152 2153 2154 2155 2156 2157 2158 2159 2160 2161 2162 2163 2164 2165 2166 2167 2168 2169 2170 2171 2172 2173 2174 2175 2176 2177 2178 2179 2180 2181 2182 2183 2184 2185 2186 2187 2188 2189 2190 2191 2192 2193 2194 2195 2196 2197 2198 2199 2200 2201 2202 2203 2204 2205 2206 2207 2208 2209 2210 2211 2212 2213 2214 2215 2216 2217 2218 2219 2220 2221 2222 2223 2224 2225 2226 2227 2228 2229 2230 2231 2232 2233 2234 2235 2236 2237 2238 2239 2240 2241 2242 2243 2244 2245 2246 2247 2248 2249 2250 2251 2252 2253 2254 2255 2256 2257 2258 2259 2260 2261 2262 2263 2264 2265 2266 2267 2268 2269 2270 2271 2272 2273 2274 2275 2276 2277 2278 2279 2280 2281 2282 2283 2284 2285 2286 2287 2288 2289 2290 2291 2292 2293 2294 2295 2296 2297 2298 2299 2300 2301 2302 2303 2304 2305 2306 2307 2308 2309 2310 2311 2312 2313 2314 2315 2316 2317 2318 2319 2320 2321 2322 2323 2324 2325 2326 2327 2328 2329 2330 2331 2332 2333 2334 2335 2336 2337 2338 2339 2340 2341 2342 2343 2344 2345 2346 2347 2348 2349 2350 2351 2352 2353 2354 2355 2356 2357 2358 2359 2360 2361 2362 2363 2364 2365 2366 2367 2368 2369 2370 2371 2372 2373 2374 2375 2376 2377 2378 2379 2380 2381 2382 2383 2384 2385 2386 2387 2388 2389 2390 2391 2392 2393 2394 2395 2396 2397 2398 2399 2400 2401 2402 2403 2404 2405 2406 2407 2408 2409 2410 2411 2412 2413 2414 2415 2416 2417 2418 2419 2420 2421 2422 2423 2424 2425 2426 2427 2428 2429 2430 2431 2432 2433 2434 2435 2436 2437 2438 2439 2440 2441 2442 2443 2444 2445 2446 2447 2448 2449 2450 2451 2452 2453 2454 2455 2456 2457 2458 2459 2460 2461 2462 2463 2464 2465 2466 2467 2468 2469 2470 2471 2472 2473 2474 2475 2476 2477 2478 2479 2480 2481 2482 2483 2484 2485 2486 2487 2488 2489 2490 2491 2492 2493 2494 2495 2496 2497 2498 2499 2500 2501 2502 2503 2504 2505 2506 2507 2508 2509 2510 2511 2512 2513 2514 2515 2516 2517 2518 2519 2520 2521 2522 2523 2524 2525 2526 2527 2528 2529 2530 2531 2532 2533 2534 2535 2536 2537 2538 2539 2540 2541 2542 2543 2544 2545 2546 2547 2548 2549 2550 2551 2552 2553 2554 2555 2556 2557 2558 2559 2560 2561 2562 2563 2564 2565 2566 2567 2568 2569 2570 2571 2572 2573 2574 2575 2576 2577 2578 2579 2580 2581 2582 2583 2584 2585 2586 2587 2588 2589 2590 2591 2592 2593 2594 2595 2596 2597 2598 2599 2600 2601 2602 2603 2604 2605 2606 2607 2608 2609 2610 2611 2612 2613 2614 2615 2616 2617 2618 2619 2620 2621 2622 2623 2624 2625 2626 2627 2628 2629 2630 2631 2632 2633 2634 2635 2636 2637 2638 2639 2640 2641 2642 2643 2644 2645 2646 2647 2648 2649 2650 2651 2652 2653 2654 2655 2656 2657 2658 2659 2660 2661 2662 2663 2664 2665 2666 2667 2668 2669 2670 2671 2672 2673 2674 2675 2676 2677 2678 2679 2680 2681 2682 2683 2684 2685 2686 2687 2

NYSE

Thursday's 4 P.M. Close
(Continued)

12 Month		Stock	Div	Yld	PE	100s	High	Low	Latest	Chge
High	Low									

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DATE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	BALANCE
1911	Jan 1		100.00
	Feb 1	10.00	110.00
	Mar 1	20.00	130.00
	Apr 1	30.00	160.00
	May 1	40.00	200.00
	Jun 1	50.00	250.00
	Jul 1	60.00	310.00
	Aug 1	70.00	380.00
	Sep 1	80.00	460.00
	Oct 1	90.00	550.00
	Nov 1	100.00	650.00
	Dec 1	110.00	760.00
1912	Jan 1	120.00	880.00
	Feb 1	130.00	1010.00
	Mar 1	140.00	1150.00
	Apr 1	150.00	1300.00
	May 1	160.00	1460.00
	Jun 1	170.00	1630.00
	Jul 1	180.00	1810.00
	Aug 1	190.00	2000.00
	Sep 1	200.00	2200.00
	Oct 1	210.00	2410.00
	Nov 1	220.00	2630.00
	Dec 1	230.00	2860.00
1913	Jan 1	240.00	3100.00
	Feb 1	250.00	3350.00
	Mar 1	260.00	3610.00
	Apr 1	270.00	3880.00
	May 1	280.00	4160.00
	Jun 1	290.00	4450.00
	Jul 1	300.00	4750.00
	Aug 1	310.00	5060.00
	Sep 1	320.00	5380.00
	Oct 1	330.00	5710.00
	Nov 1	340.00	6050.00
	Dec 1	350.00	6400.00
1914	Jan 1	360.00	6760.00
	Feb 1	370.00	7130.00
	Mar 1	380.00	7510.00
	Apr 1	390.00	7900.00
	May 1	400.00	8300.00
	Jun 1	410.00	8710.00
	Jul 1	420.00	9130.00
	Aug 1	430.00	9560.00
	Sep 1	440.00	10000.00
	Oct 1	450.00	10450.00
	Nov 1	460.00	10910.00
	Dec 1	470.00	11380.00
1915	Jan 1	480.00	11860.00
	Feb 1	490.00	12350.00
	Mar 1	500.00	12850.00
	Apr 1	510.00	13360.00
	May 1	520.00	13880.00
	Jun 1	530.00	14410.00
	Jul 1	540.00	14950.00
	Aug 1	550.00	15500.00
	Sep 1	560.00	16060.00
	Oct 1	570.00	16630.00
	Nov 1	580.00	17210.00
	Dec 1	590.00	17800.00
1916	Jan 1	600.00	18400.00
	Feb 1	610.00	19010.00
	Mar 1	620.00	19630.00
	Apr 1	630.00	20260.00
	May 1	640.00	20900.00
	Jun 1	650.00	21550.00
	Jul 1	660.00	22210.00
	Aug 1	670.00	22880.00
	Sep 1	680.00	23560.00
	Oct 1	690.00	24250.00
	Nov 1	700.00	24950.00
	Dec 1	710.00	25660.00
1917	Jan 1	720.00	26380.00
	Feb 1	730.00	27110.00
	Mar 1	740.00	27850.00
	Apr 1	750.00	28600.00
	May 1	760.00	29360.00
	Jun 1	770.00	30130.00
	Jul 1	780.00	30910.00
	Aug 1	790.00	31700.00
	Sep 1	800.00	32500.00
	Oct 1	810.00	33310.00
	Nov 1	820.00	34130.00
	Dec 1	830.00	34960.00
1918	Jan 1	840.00	35800.00
	Feb 1	850.00	36650.00
	Mar 1	860.00	375

[illegible][illegible]

12 Month	High	Low	Stock	Div	Yld	PE	100s	High	Low	Latest	Chg
274	22 1/2	19 1/2	Stamps	.40	2.5	11	121	24 1/2	22 1/2	24	+1 1/2
275	22 1/2	19 1/2	Stamps	.40	2.5	11	121	24 1/2	22 1/2	24	+1 1/2
276	22 1/2	19 1/2	Stamps	.40	2.5	11	121	24 1/2	22 1/2	24	+1 1/2
277	22 1/2	19 1/2	Stamps	.40	2.5	11	121	24 1/2	22 1/2	24	+1 1/2
278	22 1/2	19 1/2	Stamps	.40	2.5	11	121	24 1/2	22 1/2	24	+1 1/2
279	22 1/2	19 1/2	Stamps	.40	2.5	11	121	24 1/2	22 1/2	24	+1 1/2
280	22 1/2	19 1/2	Stamps	.40	2.5	11	121	24 1/2	22 1/2	24	+1 1/2
281	22 1/2	19 1/2	Stamps	.40	2.5	11	121	24 1/2	22 1/2	24	+1 1/2
282	22 1/2	19 1/2	Stamps	.40	2.5	11	121	24 1/2	22 1/2	24	+1 1/2
283	22 1/2	19 1/2	Stamps	.40	2.5	11	121	24 1/2	22 1/2	24	+1 1/2
284	22 1/2	19 1/2	Stamps	.40	2.5	11	121	24 1/2	22 1/2	24	+1 1/2
285	22 1/2	19 1/2	Stamps	.40	2.5	11	121	24 1/2	22 1/2	24	+1 1/2
286	22 1/2	19 1/2	Stamps	.40	2.5	11	121	24 1/2	22 1/2	24	+1 1/2
287	22 1/2	19 1/2	Stamps	.40	2.5	11	121	24 1/2	22 1/2	24	+1 1/2
288	22 1/2	19 1/2	Stamps	.40	2.5	11	121	24 1/2	22 1/2	24	+1 1/2
289	22 1/2	19 1/2	Stamps	.40	2.5	11	121	24 1/2	22 1/2	24	+1 1/2
290	22 1/2	19 1/2	Stamps	.40	2.5	11	121	24 1/2	22 1/2	24	+1 1/2
291	22 1/2	19 1/2	Stamps	.40	2.5	11	121	24 1/2	22 1/2	24	+1 1/2
292	22 1/2	19 1/2	Stamps	.40	2.5	11	121	24 1/2	22 1/2	24	+1 1/2
293	22 1/2	19 1/2	Stamps	.40	2.5	11	121	24 1/2	22 1/2	24	+1 1/2
294	22 1/2	19 1/2	Stamps	.40	2.5	11	121	24 1/2	22 1/2	24	+1 1/2
295	22 1/2	19 1/2	Stamps	.40	2.5	11	121	24 1/2	22 1/2	24	+1 1/2
296	22 1/2	19 1/2	Stamps	.40	2.5	11	121	24 1/2	22 1/2	24	+1 1/2
297	22 1/2	19 1/2	Stamps	.40	2.5	11	121	24 1/2	22 1/2	24	+1 1/2
298	22 1/2	19 1/2	Stamps	.40	2.5	11	121	24 1/2	22 1/2	24	+1 1/2
299	22 1/2	19 1/2	Stamps	.40	2.5	11	121	24 1/2	22 1/2	24	+1 1/2
300	22 1/2	19 1/2	Stamps	.40	2.5	11	121	24 1/2	22 1/2	24	+1 1/2

姓名	性别	年龄	籍贯	民族	文化程度	职业	住址	电话	备注
王德胜	男	45	山东	汉族	高中	工人	济南市	1234	
李小明	男	32	河南	汉族	初中	农民	郑州市	5678	
张小红	女	28	江苏	汉族	大学	教师	南京市	9012	
赵国强	男	55	四川	汉族	小学	退休	成都市	3456	
陈丽娟	女	40	广东	汉族	高中	护士	广州市	7890	
周大伟	男	38	浙江	汉族	大学	工程师	杭州市	2345	
吴小芳	女	25	湖北	汉族	初中	售货员	武汉市	6789	
孙建刚	男	50	安徽	汉族	小学	农民	合肥市	1011	
郑秀英	女	42	湖南	汉族	高中	医生	长沙市	1213	
冯志强	男	35	江西	汉族	大学	教授	南昌市	1415	
马海燕	女	30	广西	汉族	初中	工人	南宁市	1617	
徐文博	男	48	福建	汉族	小学	退休	福州市	1819	
黄晓琳	女	22	山西	汉族	高中	学生	太原市	2021	
郭永刚	男	52	陕西	汉族	初中	农民	西安市	2223	
梁小红	女	36	甘肃	汉族	大学	教师	兰州市	2425	
周国强	男	44	宁夏	汉族	小学	工人	银川市	2627	
吴小娟	女	29	青海	汉族	高中	售货员	西宁市	2829	
孙建伟	男	51	四川	汉族	初中	退休	成都市	3031	
郑秀娟	女	41	湖南	汉族	小学	农民	长沙市	3233	
冯志强	男	34	江西	汉族	大学	教授	南昌市	3435	
马海燕	女	27	广西	汉族	初中	工人	南宁市	3637	
徐文博	男	46	福建	汉族	小学	退休	福州市	3839	
黄晓琳	女	21	山西	汉族	高中	学生	太原市	4041	
郭永刚	男	53	陕西	汉族	初中	农民	西安市	4243	
梁小红	女	37	甘肃	汉族	大学	教师	兰州市	4445	
周国强	男	43	宁夏	汉族	小学	工人	银川市	4647	
吴小娟	女	28	青海	汉族	高中	售货员	西宁市	4849	
孙建伟	男	50	四川	汉族	初中	退休	成都市	5051	
郑秀娟	女	40	湖南	汉族	小学	农民	长沙市	5253	
冯志强	男	33	江西	汉族	大学	教授	南昌市	5455	
马海燕	女	26	广西	汉族	初中	工人	南宁市	5657	
徐文博	男	45	福建	汉族	小学	退休	福州市	5859	
黄晓琳	女	20	山西	汉族	高中	学生	太原市	6061	
郭永刚	男	54	陕西	汉族	初中	农民	西安市	6263	
梁小红	女	38	甘肃	汉族	大学	教师	兰州市	6465	
周国强	男	42	宁夏	汉族	小学	工人	银川市	6667	
吴小娟	女	27	青海	汉族	高中	售货员	西宁市	6869	
孙建伟	男	49	四川	汉族	初中	退休	成都市	7071	
郑秀娟	女	39	湖南	汉族	小学	农民	长沙市	7273	
冯志强	男	32	江西	汉族	大学	教授	南昌市	7475	
马海燕	女	25	广西	汉族	初中	工人	南宁市	7677	
徐文博	男	44	福建	汉族	小学	退休	福州市	7879	
黄晓琳	女	19	山西	汉族	高中	学生	太原市	8081	
郭永刚	男	55	陕西	汉族	初中	农民	西安市	8283	
梁小红	女	39	甘肃	汉族	大学	教师	兰州市	8485	
周国强	男	41	宁夏	汉族	小学	工人	银川市	8687	
吴小娟	女	26	青海	汉族	高中	售货员	西宁市	8889	
孙建伟	男	48	四川	汉族	初中	退休	成都市	9091	
郑秀娟	女	38	湖南	汉族	小学	农民	长沙市	9293	
冯志强	男	31	江西	汉族	大学	教授	南昌市	9495	
马海燕	女	24	广西	汉族	初中	工人	南宁市	9697	
徐文博	男	43	福建	汉族	小学	退休	福州市	9899	
黄晓琳	女	18	山西	汉族	高中	学生	太原市	10101	
郭永刚	男	56	陕西	汉族	初中	农民	西安市	10202	
梁小红	女	40	甘肃	汉族	大学	教师	兰州市	10303	
周国强	男	43	宁夏	汉族	小学	工人	银川市	10404	
吴小娟	女	27	青海	汉族	高中	售货员	西宁市	10505	
孙建伟	男	50	四川	汉族	初中	退休	成都市	10606	
郑秀娟	女	41	湖南	汉族	小学	农民	长沙市	10707	
冯志强	男	34	江西	汉族	大学	教授	南昌市	10808	
马海燕	女	28	广西	汉族	初中	工人	南宁市	10909	
徐文博	男	47	福建	汉族	小学	退休	福州市	11010	
黄晓琳	女	21	山西	汉族	高中	学生	太原市	11111	
郭永刚	男	57	陕西	汉族	初中	农民	西安市	11212	
梁小红	女	41	甘肃	汉族	大学	教师	兰州市	11313	
周国强	男	45	宁夏	汉族	小学	工人	银川市	11414	
吴小娟	女	29	青海	汉族	高中	售货员	西宁市	11515	
孙建伟	男	52	四川	汉族	初中	退休	成都市	11616	
郑秀娟	女	43	湖南	汉族	小学	农民	长沙市	11717	
冯志强	男	37	江西	汉族	大学	教授	南昌市	11818	
马海燕	女	31	广西	汉族	初中	工人	南宁市	11919	
徐文博	男	50	福建	汉族	小学	退休	福州市	12020	
黄晓琳	女	24	山西	汉族	高中	学生	太原市	12121	
郭永刚	男	60	陕西	汉族	初中	农民	西安市	12222	
梁小红	女	45	甘肃	汉族	大学	教师	兰州市	12323	
周国强	男	49	宁夏	汉族	小学	工人	银川市	12424	
吴小娟	女	32	青海	汉族	高中	售货员	西宁市	12525	
孙建伟	男	55	四川	汉族	初中	退休	成都市	12626	
郑秀娟	女	47	湖南	汉族	小学	农民	长沙市	12727	
冯志强	男	41	江西	汉族	大学	教授	南昌市	12828	
马海燕	女	35	广西	汉族	初中	工人	南宁市	12929	
徐文博	男	54	福建	汉族	小学	退休	福州市	13030	
黄晓琳	女	27	山西	汉族	高中	学生	太原市	13131	
郭永刚	男	61	陕西	汉族	初中	农民	西安市	13232	
梁小红	女	49	甘肃	汉族	大学	教师	兰州市	13333	
周国强	男	53	宁夏	汉族	小学	工人	银川市	13434	
吴小娟	女	35	青海	汉族	高中	售货员	西宁市	13535	
孙建伟	男	58	四川	汉族	初中	退休	成都市	13636	
郑秀娟	女	51	湖南	汉族	小学	农民	长沙市	13737	
冯志强	男	45	江西	汉族	大学	教授	南昌市	13838	
马海燕	女	39	广西	汉族	初中	工人	南宁市	13939	
徐文博	男	58	福建	汉族	小学	退休	福州市	14040	
黄晓琳	女	30	山西	汉族	高中	学生	太原市	14141	
郭永刚	男	62	陕西	汉族	初中	农民	西安市	14242	
梁小红	女	53	甘肃	汉族	大学	教师	兰州市	14343	
周国强	男	57	宁夏	汉族	小学	工人	银川市	14444	
吴小娟	女	38	青海	汉族	高中	售货员	西宁市	14545	
孙建伟	男	61	四川	汉族	初中	退休	成都市	14646	
郑秀娟	女	55	湖南	汉族	小学	农民	长沙市	14747	
冯志强	男	49	江西	汉族	大学	教授	南昌市	14848	
马海燕	女	43	广西	汉族	初中	工人	南宁市	14949	
徐文博	男	60	福建	汉族	小学	退休	福州市	15050	
黄晓琳	女	33	山西	汉族	高中	学生	太原市	15151	
郭永刚	男	63	陕西	汉族	初中	农民	西安市	15252	
梁小红	女	57	甘肃	汉族	大学	教师	兰州市	15353	
周国强	男	61	宁夏	汉族	小学	工人	银川市	15454	
吴小娟	女	41	青海	汉族	高中	售货员	西宁市	15555	
孙建伟	男	64	四川	汉族	初中	退休	成都市	15656	
郑秀娟	女	59	湖南	汉族	小学	农民	长沙市	15757	
冯志强	男	53	江西	汉族	大学	教授	南昌市	15858	
马海燕	女	47	广西	汉族	初中	工人	南宁市	15959	
徐文博	男	63	福建	汉族	小学	退休	福州市	16060	
黄晓琳	女	36	山西	汉族	高中	学生	太原市	16161	
郭永刚	男	64	陕西	汉族	初中	农民	西安市	16262	
梁小红	女	61	甘肃	汉族	大学	教师	兰州市	16363	
周国强	男	65	宁夏	汉族	小学	工人	银川市	16464	
吴小娟	女	44	青海	汉族	高中	售货员	西宁市	16565	
孙建伟	男	67	四川	汉族	初中	退休	成都市	16666	
郑秀娟	女	63	湖南	汉族	小学	农民	长沙市	16767	
冯志强	男	57	江西	汉族	大学	教授	南昌市	16868	
马海燕	女	51	广西	汉族	初中	工人	南宁市	16969	
徐文博	男	66	福建	汉族	小学	退休	福州市	17070	
黄晓琳	女	39	山西	汉族	高中	学生	太原市	17171	
郭永刚	男	65	陕西	汉族	初中	农民	西安市	17272	
梁小红	女	64	甘肃	汉族	大学	教师	兰州市	17373	
周国强	男	67	宁夏	汉族	小学	工人	银川市	17474	
吴小娟	女	47	青海	汉族	高中	售货员	西宁市	17575	
孙建伟	男	70	四川	汉族	初中	退休	成都市	17676	
郑秀娟	女	67	湖南	汉族	小学	农民	长沙市	17777	
冯志强	男	61	江西	汉族	大学	教授	南昌市	17878	
马海燕	女	55	广西	汉族	初中	工人	南宁市	17979	
徐文博	男	69	福建	汉族	小学	退休	福州市	18080	
黄晓琳	女	42	山西	汉族	高中	学生	太原市	18181	
郭永刚	男	66	陕西	汉族	初中	农民	西安市	18282	
梁小红	女	69	甘肃	汉族	大学	教师	兰州市	18383	
周国强	男	71	宁夏	汉族	小学	工人	银川市	18484	
吴小娟	女	50	青海	汉族	高中	售货员	西宁市	18585	
孙建伟	男	73	四川	汉族	初中	退休	成都市	18686	
郑秀娟	女	69	湖南	汉族	小学	农民	长沙市	18787	
冯志强	男	63	江西	汉族	大学	教授	南昌市	18888	
马海燕	女	57	广西	汉族	初中	工人	南宁市	18989	
徐文博	男	72	福建	汉族	小学	退休	福州市	19090	
黄晓琳	女	45	山西	汉族	高中	学生	太原市	19191	
郭永刚	男	67	陕西	汉族	初中	农民	西安市	19292	
梁小红	女	72	甘肃	汉族	大学	教师	兰州市	19393	
周国强	男	75	宁夏	汉族	小学	工人	银川市	19494	
吴小娟	女	53	青海	汉族	高中	售货员	西宁市	19595	
孙建伟	男	76	四川	汉族	初中	退休	成都市	19696	
郑秀娟	女	71	湖南	汉族	小学	农民	长沙市	19797	
冯志强	男	65	江西	汉族	大学	教授	南昌市	19898	
马海燕	女	59	广西	汉族	初中	工人	南宁市	19999	
徐文博	男	75	福建	汉族	小学	退休	福州市	20000	
黄晓琳	女	48	山西	汉族	高中	学生	太原市	20101	
郭永刚	男	68	陕西	汉族	初中	农民	西安市	20202	
梁小红	女	75	甘肃	汉族	大学	教师	兰州市	20303	
周国强	男	78	宁夏	汉族	小学	工人	银川市	20404	
吴小娟	女	56	青海	汉族	高中	售货员	西宁市	20505	
孙建伟	男	79	四川	汉族	初中	退休	成都市	20606	
郑秀娟	女	74	湖南	汉族	小学	农民	长沙市	20707	
冯志强	男	67	江西	汉族	大学	教授	南昌市	20808	
马海燕	女	61	广西	汉族	初中	工人	南宁市	20909	
徐文博	男	78	福建	汉族	小学	退休	福州市	21010	
黄晓琳	女	51	山西	汉族	高中	学生	太原市	21111	
郭永刚	男	69	陕西	汉族	初中	农民	西安市	21212	
梁小红	女	78	甘肃	汉族	大学	教师	兰州市	21313	
周国强	男	81	宁夏	汉族	小学	工人	银川市	21414	
吴小娟	女	59	青海	汉族	高中	售货员	西宁市	21515	
孙建伟	男	82	四川	汉族	初中	退休	成都市	21616	
郑秀娟	女	77	湖南	汉族	小学	农民	长沙市	21717	
冯志强	男	71	江西	汉族	大学	教授	南昌市	21818	
马海燕	女	63	广西	汉族	初中	工人	南宁市	21919	
徐文博	男	80	福建	汉族	小学	退休	福州市	22020	
黄晓琳	女	54	山西	汉族	高中	学生	太原市	22121	
郭永刚	男	70	陕西	汉族	初中	农民	西安市	22222	
梁小红	女	81	甘肃	汉族	大学	教师	兰州市	22323	
周国强	男	84	宁夏	汉族	小学	工人	银川市	22424	
吴小娟	女	62	青海	汉族	高中	售货员	西宁市	22525	
孙建伟	男	85	四川	汉族	初中	退休	成都市	22626	
郑秀娟	女	80	湖南	汉族	小学	农民	长沙市	22727	
冯志强	男	73	江西	汉族	大学	教授	南昌市	22828	

yr	12 Month		Div	Yld	PE	52		Low	Latest	Chg
	High	Low				High	Low			
65	27	11	36	7	24	1463	54%	5234	5394	
64	29	11			22	1147	24%	5116	5116	-3
63	25	11	p22.29	8.2	82	1041	24%	5116	5116	-3
62	25	11		8.2	82	1041	24%	5116	5116	-3
61	25	11		8.2	82	1041	24%	5116	5116	-3
60	25	11		8.2	82	1041	24%	5116	5116	-3
59	25	11		8.2	82	1041	24%	5116	5116	-3
58	25	11		8.2	82	1041	24%	5116	5116	-3
57	25	11		8.2	82	1041	24%	5116	5116	-3
56	25	11		8.2	82	1041	24%	5116	5116	-3
55	25	11		8.2	82	1041	24%	5116	5116	-3
54	25	11		8.2	82	1041	24%	5116	5116	-3
53	25	11		8.2	82	1041	24%	5116	5116	-3
52	25	11		8.2	82	1041	24%	5116	5116	-3
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48	25	11		8.2	82	1041	24%	5116	5116	-3
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44	25	11		8.2	82	1041	24%	5116	5116	-3
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GLOBAL: Crisis Demonstrates That the World's Economic System Needs Repair but a Solution Remains as Elusive as a Cause

Continued from Page 1

Heimann, who recently stepped down as chairman of Merrill Lynch Global Capital Markets to head a new bank supervisor training institute. "What you need is more attention to the plumbing and electricity. That's not as dramatic, but it's the plumbing and electricity that make the house work."

A number of these kinds of changes are under discussion.

At the global level, the 22 leading industrialized countries have proposed 44 initiatives, ranging from an international accounting code to better supervision of banks, insurance firms and brokerages.

Some countries are trying to take dull but important steps to reduce the risks of crises: improving their legal systems; creating a modern bankruptcy structure; fighting corruption and hiring bank supervisors. But these

steps often run into entrenched local interests, and the progress is slow. "Have the lessons been tough enough so that people in individual countries are moving to actually fix their financial market infrastructure?" asked William McDonough, president of the New York Federal Reserve Bank and chairman of the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision. "Probably not. Should the effort be made?"

There is not much agreement on that. The lessons on which a consensus has emerged seem surprisingly obvious and modest for an economic catastrophe that has destroyed so much wealth and transformed the prospects of nations from Indonesia to Russia to Brazil.

Historians may eventually elicit more subtle conclusions, but for now the lessons are almost embarrassingly straightforward. One is the danger of hubris. The crisis arose in part because emerging-market countries built up too confidently, because Western investors and bankers were too optimistic in their assessments of risk and because Western governments were too convinced that they had the right solutions.

Throughout the crisis, expert predictions have invariably been wrong and even miracle economies have crashed. A second lesson is the importance of prudence in the banking system, the pillar of any modern economy. Financial institutions have generally been better supervised in America than in many other countries, but the near-collapse of Long-Term Capital Management underscored the risks even in the most sophisticated and best-supervised market in the West.

And a third lesson is the danger of stock and property manias.

Many Asians say glumly that they have learned the hard way the importance of scrutinizing the foundations of any economy, however dazzling it seems. And as they say that, they look — jealously, resentfully and nervously — at the American economy and especially at the

U.S. stock market. Still, there is a dispute about whether that lesson applies to the United States. America has far less corruption and cronyism than Russia or Indonesia, and no one thinks that America has built a bubble on the scale of Japan's in 1990, so some analysts argue that any parallel with Asia is ridiculous.

"I do not accept the comparison between Asia and the United States," said Abby Joseph Cohen, co-chairwoman of the investment policy committee at Goldman Sachs & Co. and so far one of the most bullish and accurate of Wall Street strategists.

Ms. Cohen emphasized that while Asia's boom was fueled by cheap credit — artificially low interest rates — this has not been true of the United States. In addition, she noted that American accounting and banking standards are more rigorous than those abroad.

"The Asian economy has been having difficulty recovering because banks have large portfolios of underperforming loans," she said. "But here the level of bank regulation has been much higher. Regulators are really paying attention, and shareholders are paying attention."

Economists and policy makers in Asia, with a biting skepticism that comes from seeing their own economies swell and pop, are often contemptuous of the American explanations.

They point to the banking crisis in Texas in the late 1980s as an example of the foolishness that even highly regulated banks can engage in.

"If you look at it objectively," said Mr. Sakakibara, "the United States now has a bubble."

Skeptics like him say that the United States has followed the Asian pattern of an upward spiral whereby higher stock prices lead to rising investment and consumer spending, which leads to

higher stock prices and pushes the spiral even higher. Moreover, the United States is financing its growth the Thai and Indonesian way — by borrowing from abroad, although it has the advantage of being able to borrow in its own currency.

The American stock market has also soared to its highest ratio of market capitalization to gross national product (140 percent) ever recorded, a ratio that compares with a previous peak of 81 percent in 1929. The American ratio is more than twice as high as Indonesia's or Brazil's at the time their crises hit.

In the broadest sense, one of the central problems in Asia and Russia was that investors were so used to success that they did not contemplate catastrophe.

In the same way, the long bull market in the West since 1982 means that most stock market investors cannot conceive of how devastating a bear market can be, even if the market turbulence in the fall did shake them up.

Looking at the financial crisis, John Kenneth Galbraith, the nonagenarian Harvard economist, concludes that "the overwhelming lesson is to be aware of the history" of speculative mania, and to be "further aware that the United States is also part of the history."

"The speculative mood," he added, "can pervade Wall Street as much as Tokyo or Malaysia."

Economists and government officials have offered an abundance of neat explanations for the crisis.

Some attribute it to crony capitalism and fundamental weaknesses in overseas countries. Others point to the fickleness of international capital flows and the entire global economic system. Still others say that the culprit was the United States and the monetary fund, or alternatively the venality and incompetence of governments in Rus-

sia, or Indonesia, or other countries. Economists will dispute for years which factors leading to the crisis were necessary, and which sufficient, and which tangential. But the causes seem so many and so intertwined that it is difficult to fit them together in any neat equation.

Moreover, for all the talk in recent months about grand solutions to crises, there is a growing sense that no good answer may be out there, and that one price of economic development has perhaps been a loss of control over the markets that nurtured the development.

Some of the key causes of this crisis may lie not in economic ratios but human nature.

In explaining the way that international economic crises have rippled around the globe, historians have often concluded that the most important factor was psychology.

The same may be true today. "Computers and 'rocket scientists' and first-rate research have yet to overcome the instinctive tendency of markets to overshoot up and down. The herds went from mania to panic in an instant, and this process trampled Asia and Russia. It is also what some economists worry about when they look at the United States."

"The old human emotions of fear and euphoria still prevail," said Laura D'Andrea Tyson, the former head of Mr. Clinton's Council of Economic Advisers.

Ms. Tyson said that Alan Greenspan, the Federal Reserve chairman, had once made the same point to her, noting that if one looked at a graph of jumps and dips in stock prices, it would be impossible to tell whether one was looking at the 1980s or the 1990s.

The crisis suggests that the old high-tech tools are still in frail human hands.

Mr. Galbraith, musing on

the crisis, said: "I wouldn't be as severe on the regulators as on those being regulated. When you are dealing with insanity, one looks first at the insane and then at those supervising them."

In Cantrill, Illinois, Mary Jo Paoni is planning to retire in April from her job as a secretary. Whatever the uncertainties, and despite her pension fund's loss of \$2.7 million on Indonesian stocks, it has still ridden the boom in American stocks and is in strong shape. Mrs. Paoni and her generation of Americans will be able to retire without difficulty.

Yet she is also embedded in her community, and these days it is showing signs of vulnerability. The corn that surrounds her home sold for \$5 a bushel two years ago; now the global economic difficulties have sent corn plunging to \$2.12.

The restructuring and downsizing strike a particular nerve in the Paoni household because the supermarket chain where Mrs. Paoni's husband, George, worked for 32 years was bought out by a distant company just nine months before his retirement. He did not lose his job as a meat cutter, but he lost his holiday pay and five weeks' vacation.

Mrs. Paoni is apprehensive about stock market levels and about local signs of disquiet. With farmers in trouble, tractor or sales have slumped, and the nearby John Deere plant has announced layoffs. Banks are nervously checking their exposure to the agricultural sector.

And Mrs. Paoni, after some reflection and several hours of interviews, has decided that she is linked to the global crisis.

"I sit here in this kitchen and say I don't have anything to do with Asia, but I do," she said. "There's always some tangles out there. Asia will definitely have an effect on Iowa and Illinois."

Legrand

1998 consolidated accounts

The board of directors, presided by Mr. François Grappotte, closed financial statements for 1998.

Audited consolidated data	1998		1997		
	ME	MF	ME	MF	
Net sales	2,177	14,278	1,985	13,018	+9.7%
Operating income	351	2,302	313	2,051	+12%
Operating margin	16.1%		15.8%		
Net income	193	1,269	162	1,065	+19%
Net margin	8.9%		8.2%		

Despite slowing in the final quarter, particularly in December, sales rose 4.2% at constant structure and exchange rates. Current data show a rise of 9.7% after inclusion of the URA Sofi emergency lighting division and US company Ortronics, which specializes in precasting for VDI networks.

Improved earnings and margins reflect the group's capacity to make the most of its markets. Over two years, operating income rose 4.2% and net income 37%.

The board will ask the annual general meeting to be held in Limoges on May 26, 1999 to approve distribution of a net dividend amounting to euro 1.55 per ordinary share and euros 2.48 per preferred share, equal to approximately French francs 10.17 and French francs 16.27 respectively, representing a rise of 13% from 1997. After deduction of the advance paid on February 1, the balance of euro 0.85 (approximately French francs 5.58) per ordinary share and euro 1.36 (approximately French francs 8.92) per preferred share will be made payable from June 14, 1999. As in the case of the dividend advance, shareholders whose accounts are denominated in French francs will receive an amount in French francs corresponding to the conversion of the total balance due at the rate of francs 6.55957 for 1 euro.

Financial information: Tel: (33) 1.49.72.53.53 - Internet: www.legrandelectric.com

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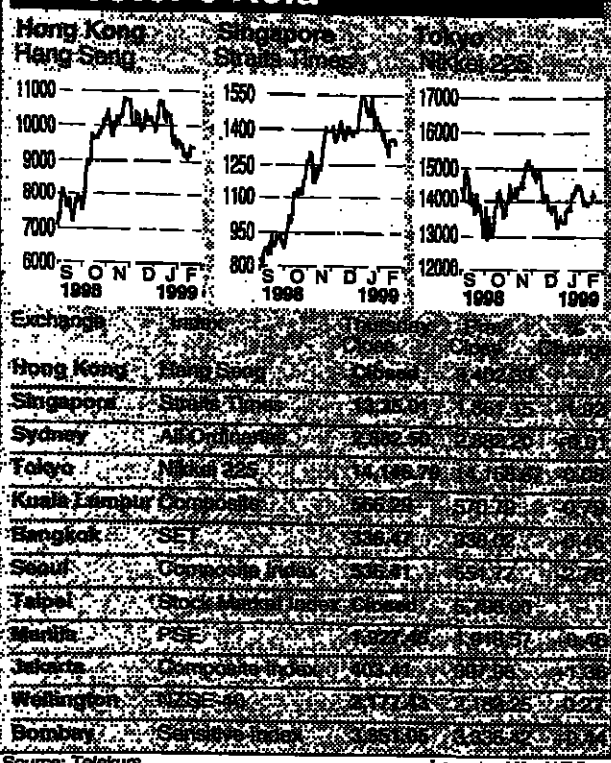
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02/18/99

ASIA/PACIFIC

Investor's Asia



Strategic Moves by Qantas Pay Off in 34% Profit Rise

SYDNEY — Qantas Airways Ltd. said Thursday its first-half profit jumped 34 percent despite the crippling effect of Asia's financial troubles on other airlines in the region.

The result seemed to vindicate a campaign that Qantas launched last year to get out of Asian routes and replace them with increased traffic to the United States and Europe.

Some analysts had still been skeptical that the airline could continue improving its profit as the Asian crisis savaged balance sheets of other airlines in the region.

But their skepticism appeared to have been belied by the result announced Thursday — a net profit of 222.9 million Australian dollars (\$141.7 million) for the six months that ended Dec. 31, up from 165.8

million dollars a year earlier.

Eric Betts, an analyst at Nomura Australia, called the result "stunning," and Gary Pemberton, the chairman of Qantas, said it was the airline's best ever.

"While they have benefited from a less competitive domestic market, they have deployed their capital better, and pumped the routes that are doing well," Mr. Betts said.

Qantas raised its full-year profit forecast, saying it was "confident" that earnings would at least match last year's record of 305 million dollars even without the 25 million dollars it reaped in the first half from the sale of aircraft.

Qantas shares, which have surged more than 60 percent in the past six months, rose 21 cents to close at 3.92 dollars.

(AFP, Bloomberg)

Honda's 3d-Quarter Profit Climbed 16% on U.S. Sales

Demand for Big Cars Offsets Decline in Revenue

TOKYO — Honda Motor Co. said Thursday its third-quarter group net income rose 16 percent to a record for the period as sales of more profitable cars in the United States compensated for a decline in revenue.

Japan's third-largest carmaker posted a profit of 75.5 billion yen (\$63.8 million) for the quarter that ended Dec. 31, compared with 65.2 billion yen a year earlier. Sales fell 4 percent, to 1.49 trillion yen from 1.55 trillion yen.

Honda compensated for a drop in sales in Japan and Europe by selling its more profitable Odysseys and Acura TL luxury sedans in the United States, where rising wages prompted Americans to buy bigger cars. Honda makes as much as \$4,000 for every Acura TL and Odyssey it sells, compared with \$1,000 to \$2,000 on an Accord car, said Peter Boardman, an auto analyst at Warburg Dillon Read in Tokyo.

Hoys May Sell 965 U.S. Screens

SYDNEY — Hoys Cinema Group Ltd. said Thursday it had hired an investment banker to handle the possible sale of its 965 screens in the United States or any potential merger or acquisition.

The company is scheduled to release its half-year earnings next week, and a spokesman said that until then it would not comment further on its retention of B.T. Wolfenshohn, a unit of Bankers Trust Corp., to handle the matter.

Peter Ivany, chief executive officer of Hoys, said the strategic review of operations may not result in any change to the company's business.

Automakers' Output Slows

Fewer cars rolled off the assembly lines of four of Japan's top five automakers in January as the recession continued to dampen demand. The Associated Press reported from Tokyo, quoting company announcements.

Toyota Motor Corp., Nissan Motor Co., Honda and Mazda Motor Corp. all reported lower domestic production compared with the year-earlier month.

Mitsubishi Motors Corp. reported the only production increase, as the company raised its output of passenger vehicles, particularly minivans.

The company's January output rose 0.5 percent to 85,562 vehicles, its first increase in two months.

Toyota's output tumbled 14 percent to 229,119 vehicles in January. Nissan's fell 5.6 percent to 118,407. Honda's slipped 9.5 percent to 95,054, and Mazda's was off 13 percent to 63,055.

Big Losses At Nomura Under Study

TOKYO — Regulators are investigating Nomura Securities Co., a leading Japanese brokerage, an official said Thursday.

The Securities and Exchange Surveillance Commission was reported to be looking into Nomura's huge overseas losses. The official at the securities watchdog agency confirmed there was an investigation in progress but refused to give details.

"We would like to refrain from disclosing the purpose of the inspection, as it could trigger speculation," he said.

Nomura said the commission's inspection was routine. "Our understanding is that it is standard procedure," Akiyoshi Toda, a spokeswoman, said.

The commission will investigate Nomura's asset-management business, U.S. operations and risk-management systems, according to a report in the Mainichi newspaper.

Nomura has fallen on hard times amid Japan's financial troubles and the global economic downturn. It reported a group net loss of 207 billion yen (\$1.75 billion) for the six months that ended Sept. 30 after huge trading losses on Russian government bonds and U.S. bonds backed by commercial mortgages.

The supervisory agency requires securities companies to have adequate capital to cover their financial risks. A new formula being considered would require brokerages to hold capital against loan guarantees they have extended to affiliates. That may prompt brokerages to liquidate unprofitable operations to improve their finances, the newspaper said.

(AFP, Bloomberg)

Very briefly:

- Bank Negara, Malaysia's central bank, said all investments in property were exempt from exit taxes and capital-gains taxes recently imposed on foreign investors in return for allowing them to repatriate their capital.
 - Japan's leading diffusion index, which seeks to forecast business activity three to six months in advance, was revised downward to 60 percent from 75 percent for December. Japan's economy is expected to shrink 2.2 percent in the year ending March 31.
 - Toyo Trust & Banking Co. of Japan said it was negotiating with Chase Manhattan Corp. of the United States regarding a cooperative pact covering its securities-custodian business.
 - The World Trade Organization warned the Philippines that its recent tariff increases could violate WTO policy, the Philippine trade secretary, Jose Pardo, said.
 - Mitsukoshi Ltd., the Japanese luxury department-store chain, expects a pretax loss of 800 million yen (\$6.8 million) for the year ending Feb. 28, reversing an earlier forecast of a pretax profit of 1.4 billion yen.
 - Japan Airlines Co. will increase its charter flights between the Japanese city of Fukuoka and the U.S. resort islands of Guam and Saipan.
- Bloomberg, AFP, Reuters

HEALTHCARE EMERGING GROWTH FUND

Société d'investissement à Capital Variable
69, route d'Esch, Luxembourg
R.C. Luxembourg B-58078

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS

The quorum required pursuant to article 67-1 of the law of August 10, 1915 on commercial companies not having been met during the extraordinary general meeting of Shareholders held on February 11, 1999, Shareholders of our Company are kindly invited to attend a

SECOND EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING
which will take place at the offices of BANQUE INTERNATIONALE A LUXEMBOURG S.A., 69, route d'Esch, L-2935 Luxembourg, on Thursday March 25, 1999 at 11:30 A.M. for the purpose of considering and voting upon the following agenda:

- Amendment of the notice period for meetings of shareholders as stated in Article 12 of the articles of association from "Notices setting forth the agenda shall be sent by mail at least eight days prior to the meeting to each shareholder at the shareholder's address in the Register of Shareholders" to "Notices setting forth the agenda shall be sent by mail at least twenty-one (21) days prior to the meeting to each shareholder at the shareholder's address in the Register of Shareholders".
- Amendment of the redemption procedure as stated in the first seven paragraphs of Article 21 of the Articles of Association to "Any shareholder may request the redemption of all or part of his shares by the Corporation subject to such advance notice as the board of directors may determine. The Corporation may require any request for redemption to be given by up to 5 bank business days notice prior to the date on which the redemption shall be effective".

Shareholders are hereby informed that the decision on the agenda of this second extraordinary general meeting shall be approved without quorum and at a majority of two thirds of the shares present or represented.

In order to attend this second extraordinary general meeting of the Shareholders of the Company, the owners of bearer shares will have to deposit their shares five clear days before the meeting at the registered office of the Company or with BANQUE INTERNATIONALE A LUXEMBOURG S.A., 69, route d'Esch, Luxembourg.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Advertisement

For information please contact:
Lyons Rapp: Fax (33-1) 41 43 82 12 or e-mail: fund@lfr.com

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Questions supplied by fund groups to: STANWAD & POORE MORTGAGE, L35-14020 09, e-mail: funds@hnt.com

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WORLD ROUNDUP

Star Goalie's Father Abducted in Mexico

SOCER Jorge Campos, the Mexican national team goalkeeper, returned to Mexico on Thursday after his father was kidnapped in Acapulco the day before.

Alvaro Campos was seized from a soccer field named after his son, according to relatives who spoke on condition of anonymity.

There were six or eight people with their faces uncovered, but nobody recognized them, a relative said. "They took out their rifles and took him aboard a pickup truck."

Jorge Campos had been in Hong Kong with the Mexican team.

Carlo Broli, a prosecutor, investigating possible match-fixing in an Italian League game between Venezia and Bari said Thursday that he had found no evidence of wrongdoing. Venezia won on a late goal by Tulin, who said that he was told by a teammate not to score, "because it was better that the game ended in a 1-1 draw." (AP)

NFL Veterans Are Cut

FOOTBALL Cornelius Bennett, a five-time Pro Bowl player who led the Atlanta Falcons in tackles in their Super Bowl season, was released Wednesday. Bennett, 33, was to earn \$3.7 million.

Denver released safety Steve Atwater a day after making Dale Carter the highest-paid cornerback in NFL history. Atwater, 32, has played in eight Pro Bowls. The Broncos signed Carter to a six-year, \$38 million contract.

Chris Calloway, who led the New York Giants in receptions the last four years, was released in a salary cap move after the team signed linebacker Corey Winder to an \$11.2 million deal. Calloway was due a \$500,000 bonus March 1.

Philadelphia signed Doug Pederson, a 31-year-old quarterback who has thrown just 32 regular season passes, to a \$4.5 million, three-year contract. Pederson was Brett Favre's backup in Green Bay the last four seasons.

Clyde Simmons, 35, a free-agent defensive end who is 10th in NFL history with 114 sacks, signed a two-year, \$4 million deal with the Chicago Bears. Simmons, spent last season with Cincinnati.

The New York Jets declined to match Jacksonville's \$14.4 million offer to tight end Kyle Brady. (AP)

Joint Will Be Jumping

ATHLETICS In the latest attempt to make athletics more appealing to Americans — or more like figure skating — women's high jumpers will perform to music Friday at the D.C. Invitational meet in Washington. The music, chosen by the jumper, will start when she is introduced and play until the jump is completed. There will be no deductions for "artistic impression." (AP)

Rookie Inspires Kings To Defeat SuperSonics

The Associated Press

It was a wild night in the West, and it seemed as if it would never end.

Overtime in Seattle ended with the Sonics absorbing their first loss of the season and triple-overtime in Vancouver ended with the Grizzlies wondering if they would ever play a regular 48-minute game again.

Rookie Jason Williams hit a 3-pointer to key a 9-0 run in overtime that lifted

NBA ROUNDUP

The Sacramento Kings to a 109-106 victory Wednesday night over the Sonics, until then the last remaining undefeated team.

Sacramento was playing its third game in three nights, but the strain did not show in overtime.

After Gary Payton gave Seattle a 96-94 lead, a dunk by Chris Webber tied the game before Williams, a rookie sensation from Florida, hit his three-point shot.

Vlade Divac followed with a short hook and Webber scored on a reverse dunk for a 103-96 advantage with two minutes left, and the Sonics got no closer than three points the rest of the way.

Webber led the Kings with 23 points. Lawrence Funderburke had 16 points and Williams had 12.

"I don't know if anybody is playing better in this league than Webber," said Rick Adelman, the Kings coach. "He was just a man out there."

Payton led the Sonics with 34 points and Hersey Hawkins had 18.

"I can't be the only person looking to score," Payton said. "Other people need to know they have to score too."

Celtics 131, Grizzlies 129 The Celtics-Grizzlies game lasted 3 hours and 49 minutes.

Another rookie, Paul Pierce of the Celtics, scored seven of his 26 points in the third overtime period as Boston beat Vancouver just one night after the Grizzlies went into double-overtime to beat the Los Angeles Clippers.

"I've never been involved in a game where a third team makes so many big plays," said Rick Pitino, the Celtics coach. "It was really like a Rocky fight." Shareef Abdur-Rahim had a career-high 39 points for Vancouver.

Timberwolves 116, Rockets 102 In Minneapolis, Stephen Marbury scored a career-high 40 points to go with 12 assists and zero turnovers in 40 minutes. He hit 16 of 24 shots, tying a team record for baskets, to lead the Wolves into a second-place tie with the Rockets in the Midwest Division.

"Not only was it a big win, it was a big win for me," Marbury said. "Because I haven't been being as aggressive as in the past, for my own reasons. Tonight was just my night."

Kevin Garnett had 23 points, nine assists and nine rebounds.

Suns 79, Spurs 76 Jason Kidd had 14 points, 15 rebounds and 11 assists, his second triple-double in three nights, and Phoenix outplayed San Antonio down the stretch despite playing its third game in three nights.

Phoenix looked like the fresher team as the Suns outscored the Spurs, 22-8, in the fourth quarter at the Alamodome.

The Spurs missed their last six shots, including two with a chance to tie in the last 10 seconds. One was a three-point attempt by David Robinson; the other was a two-point try by Tim Duncan.

Lakers 101, Mavericks 88 Shaquille O'Neal scored 24 points, Kobe Bryant had 23 points and nine rebounds, Eddie Jones added 20 points and Derek Fisher had a season-high 12 points, five rebounds and six assists as the Lakers dealt the visiting Mavericks their sixth straight loss.

Magic 96, Wizards 85 In Orlando, Nick Anderson scored 26 points and the Atlantic Division-leading Magic held the struggling Wizards to 34 points in the second half.

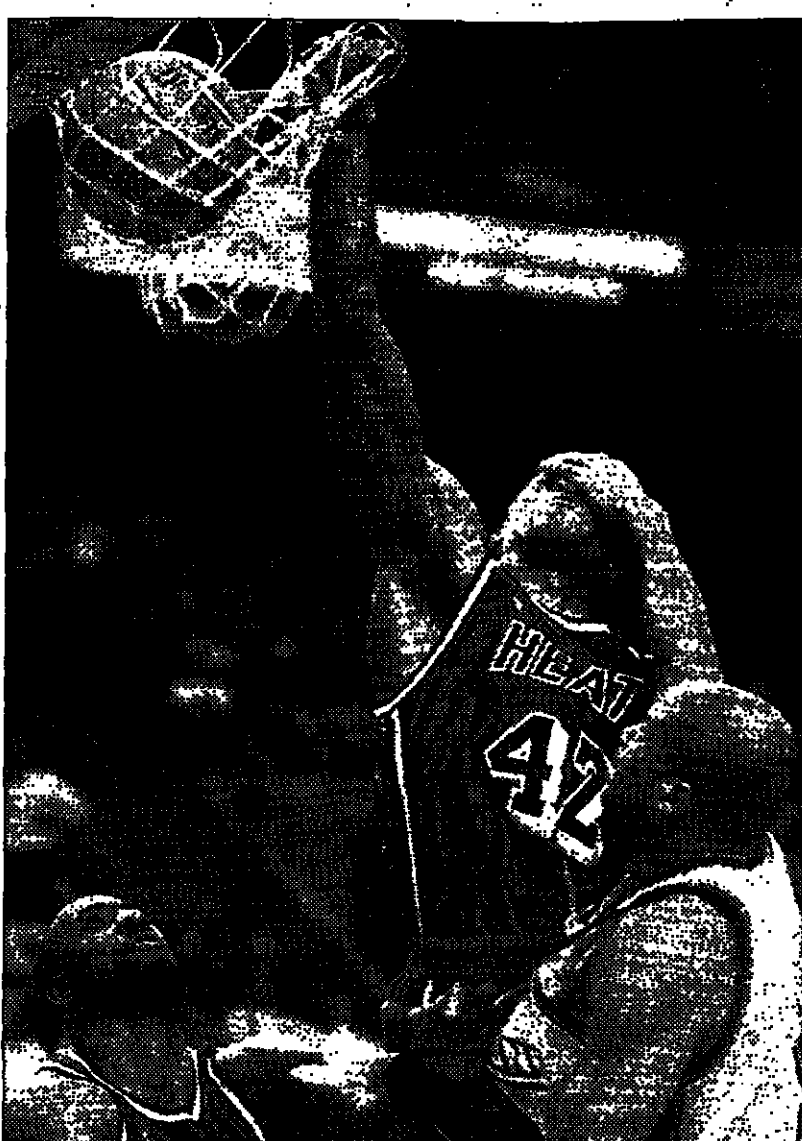
Penny Hardaway continued to struggle for the Magic. He did not play in the fourth quarter, finishing two-of-11 from the field for four points in 31 minutes.

Heat 91, Pistons 80 Tim Hardaway had 29 points and nine assists as Miami won in Detroit to run its winning streak to four games.

Warriors 95, Hornets 87 Bimbo Coles scored 11 of his 13 points in the fourth period and Golden State won its third straight. John Starks' 14 points led the host Warriors, who lost their first five games of the season.

Bucks 91, Bulls 83 In Milwaukee, the Bucks snapped a 12-game losing streak to the Bulls that dated to April 23, 1995.

Trail Blazers 100, Nuggets 85 In Portland, Walt Williams made five three-point shots. Isaiah Rider scored 19 points and the Blazers opened leads of 22 points in the second quarter and 29 in the third.



Bison Dele of the Detroit Pistons, right, fouling P.J. Brown of the Miami Heat. Alonzo Mourning of Miami, left, looks on. Miami triumphed, 91-80.

Buckeyes Gain Rare Victory at Indiana

The Associated Press

Ohio State won at Indiana University for only the third time ever as the Buckeyes reached 20 victories for the season.

The Buckeyes, ranked No. 11, beat the No. 19 Hoosiers, 69-67, Wednesday to improve to 20-6 overall, with 12 more victories than last season. In its first season under Jim O'Brien as coach, Ohio State is 10-3 in the Big Ten.

Ohio State again turned to junior guard Scoonie Penn, who transferred to the university last season from Boston College along with O'Brien. Penn got all but two of his 20 points in the second half and scored the Buckeyes' last 8 of the game.

"It was one of those situations where the coach kind of looked at me again like, 'Go ahead and see what happens.' I knew I had to step up my game a little bit," said Penn, who made three free throws in the final minute.

Larry Richardson had a career-high 15 points for the Hoosiers (19-9, 6-7), who led, 65-61, when Penn took over.

No. 1 Duke 85, Florida State 59 Elton Brand had 23 points and 16 rebounds as the Blue Devils (26-1, 14-0) won their 21st straight game and earned their sixth Atlantic Coast Conference regular-season title in the 1990s. It was Duke's 11th straight road victory. Damous Anderson

had 16 points for the Seminoles (12-13, 5-8), who lost their sixth straight league game.

No. 3 Auburn 81, Vanderbilt 63 Chris Porter had 19 points and 11 rebounds as the Tigers (25-1, 13-1) clinched at least a share of the Southeastern Conference title. The Tigers, who have not won the

SEC since the 1959-60 season, need to win only one of their two remaining games to claim the title outright.

Dan Langhi had 29 points and nine rebounds for visiting Vanderbilt (12-13, 3-10).

No. 6 Kentucky 92, Georgia 71 Heshimu Evans and Wayne Turner each scored 13 points for the Wildcats (21-6, 10-3 SEC), who finished with a 49-24 rebounding edge. D. A. Layne, a freshman, led the visiting Bulldogs (14-11, 5-8) with 24 points.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

No. 16 UCLA 68, Southern California 63 Baron Davis scored 17 points, including a decisive basket with 36 seconds remaining, as the Bruins (18-7, 9-5 Pac-10) snapped a two-game losing streak and beat their cross-town rival, Brian Scalabrine had 20 points for the visiting Trojans (12-11, 4-10) but was shut out in the final 15 minutes.

No. 21 Syracuse 71, Notre Dame 65 Evan Thomas had 22 points, 16 rebounds and six blocked shots as the Orangemen (18-8, 9-7 Big East) improved their home conference record this season to 3-5. David Graves had 16 points for the Fighting Irish (12-14, 6-9).

Toledo 68, No. 25 Miami of Ohio 63 Justin Hall scored 17 points and the Rockets (18-6, 10-6 Mid-American Conference) kept the pressure on Miami's Wally Szczerbiak, the fifth leading scorer in Division I basketball. Chad Kamstra made four free throws over the final 20 seconds for Toledo. Szczerbiak, who missed a 3-point try at the buzzer for the visiting RedHawks (19-5, 14-2), finished with 18 points, well below his 24.2 average.

Yankees Get Clemens in Trade With Blue Jays

The Associated Press

TAMPA, Florida — The New York Yankees acquired Roger Clemens, a five-time Cy Young Award winner, from the Toronto Blue Jays in a trade Thursday.

The Yankees sent David Wells, who pitched a perfect game for them last year, along with Graeme Lloyd and Homer Bush to the Blue Jays in the deal.

Clemens agreed to the trade, but did not get an extension to his contract, which has two years to run and calls for him to be paid \$16.1 million.

"I'm a little emotional right now," Wells said at the Yankees' training camp in Tampa, Florida. "Give me a couple days."

The Yankees, who won a record 125 games last season on their way to winning the World Series, made the trade the day their pre-season training camp opened.

Wells pitched his perfect game against the Minnesota Twins last season. He had clashed with the Yankees' owner, George Steinbrenner, and the team's manager, Joe Torre, at times in 1997, but last year became one of the team's most effective pitchers.

"There's some shock in that room right now," Torre said of his clubhouse. "It's something you have to get used to. That is what the game is all about."

Before Thursday, New York had retained 24 of the 25 players who helped win its second World Series title in three seasons, only letting go of outfielder Tim Lincecum.

Clemens has always been one of Steinbrenner's favorite players, and is the only five-time winner of the Cy Young Award, presented annually to the best pitcher in each of the major leagues.

"Roger Clemens is a nonstop Hall of Famer," Torre said. "The last two years, what he's done, it's incredible."

The 36-year-old right-hander went 20-6 last season, leading the American League in earned-run average (2.65) and strikeouts (271), and tying for the lead in victories. His career record is 233-124 in 15 seasons.

Clemens exercised a clause in his contract with the Blue Jays and demanded a trade Nov. 27, but withdrew the demand Dec. 22, criticizing Gerry Hunsicker, the Houston Astros' general manager, who complained when Clemens requested a \$27.4 million, one-year contract extension.

Toronto had sought several young prospects from teams when it shipped Clemens during baseball's winter meetings in December. On Wednesday, the Blue Jays lowered their demands, and the Yankees could not say no. New York's general manager, Brian Cashman, said Toronto's offer "made my knees buckle."

Andres Galaraga, the Atlanta Braves' first baseman, has a cancerous tumor in his back and will miss the 1999 season. The tumor is in a small bone in Galaraga's back. Dr. Lee Kelley said Thursday, Kelley said the potential for recovery is good.

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SPORTS

Lowly Islanders Ice the Penguins

The Associated Press
The struggling New York Islanders snapped two streaks with one surprising victory.
When the Islanders beat visiting Pittsburgh, 3-1, Wednesday, it ended their own

NHL ROUNDOFF

five-game winless streak and the Pirates' 10-game run of victories.

For the Islanders, Robert Reichel scored his 200th career goal and Tommy Salo was steady in net.

It certainly was better than a 3-3 tie against Tampa Bay on Monday, an outcome that prompted the Islanders' star Zigmund Palffy to criticize his teammates.

"We didn't have that intensity against Tampa Bay that we did tonight," said captain Trevor Linden, who also scored. "It's easy to deal with games like tonight, knowing that Pittsburgh was coming in with 10 straight wins. It's situations like the one against Tampa Bay that are tough to deal with."

Oilers 6, Mighty Ducks 2
Alex Selivanov scored his first three goals for Edmonton in the third at Anaheim.

Stars 2, Panthers 1 In Dallas, Jamie Langenbrunner broke up a scoreless game in the third period and Darian Hatcher later added a power-play goal as the Stars won their fourth straight.

Devils 7, Lightning 1 Denis Pederson and Jason Amore scored 51 seconds apart in the

first period and New Jersey extended visiting Tampa Bay's winless streak to 10 games.

Sergei Brylin, Petr Sykora, Scott Niedermayer, Brendan Morrison and Jay Pandolfo also scored as the Devils posted their most lopsided victory this season.

Maple Leafs 3, Sabres 2 Mats Sundin's third career overtime goal gave Toronto its first victory in Buffalo in eight years. Steve Thomas stole the puck behind the Buffalo net and pushed it to Sundin in front for the winning goal with 56 seconds left in overtime.

Canadiens 6, Rangers 3 Montreal continued its domination of the Rangers. Martin Rucinsky and Jonas Hoglund connected 18 seconds apart in the first period as the Canadiens won their fifth straight over New York, including four this season.

Red Wings 3, Sharks 1 Brendan Shanahan scored the go-ahead goal and Detroit's Chris Osgood was brilliant in goal as the Red Wings won their fifth straight.

Vycheslav Kozlov and Doug Brown also scored for Detroit.

Blackhawks 4, Canucks 0 Jocelyn Thibault stopped 29 shots for his fourth shutout of the season, and Chad Kilger scored twice. Doug Gilmour and Tony Amonte each had a goal and an assist for host Chicago, which had only 14 shots on Vancouver goalie Garth Snow.



Saeed Anwar, hitting a six, watched by Nayan Mongia, India's wicket keeper.

Anwar Stands Firm for Pakistan

Agence France-Presse

CALCUTTA — Saeed Anwar, a Pakistan opening batsman, batted through the whole of his team's innings and Javagal Srinath, an Indian pace bowler, took eight wickets Thursday as momentum shifted back and forth on the third day of the first match in the Asian Test series.

Anwar finished on 188 not out in a

Pakistan total of 316 all out. India then made four for no wicket in its second innings and needs to make 279 to win.

Pakistan was 263 for three wickets shortly after tea when Srinath dismissed Yusuf Youhana for 59 to end a stand of 115. Srinath then dismissed Shahid Afridi for zero with the next ball as Pakistan's batting began to crumble.

Inter, With 3 Sent Off, Crashes to Cup Defeat

Parma Pounces on Defense Error to Set Up Victory

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

Mircea Lucescu, the Inter Milan coach, Thursday blamed the referee for his team's 2-0 Italian Cup loss to Parma the night before. Inter finished with eight men after three of its players were sent off for disrupting Parma's first goal.

The semifinal first leg was deadlocked until the 77th minute, when Inter players thought they should have been awarded a free kick.

SOCCER ROUNDOFF

Stefano Braschi, the referee, waved play on, to the evident surprise of a static Inter defense that allowed Juan Veron to volley the ball into the goal from a pass by Faustino Asprilla.

Inter players surrounded the referee. Giuseppe Bergomi, the captain; fellow defender Francesco Colaninno and Javier Zanetti, a midfielder, were sent off for protesting.

Parma laid siege to the Inter goal for a bizarre closing 15 minutes. Abel Balbo took advantage of the hole in the center of the Inter defense to score with an 86th minute header.

Lucescu said he regretted his men's failure to play to the whistle. "They stopped, and they shouldn't have done that," he said. "They protested and they shouldn't have done that either. But honestly, I couldn't see anything nasty during the protests."

ENGLAND Manchester United, the Premier League leader, and Arsenal, the reigning champion, drew, 1-1, in the rain Wednesday in Manchester. The result brought to an end two streaks: United had won every game it had played in 1999 and Arsenal had not conceded a league goal this year.

United had a chance to take the lead when it won a penaltykick in the first half. But Dwight Yorke missed the goal.

Arsenal took the lead in the 48th minute when Nwankwo Kanu drove into the penalty area. He was tackled, but the ball flew to Nicolas Anelka, who scored.

Andy Cole leveled with a header after an

hour, but although United created several good scoring chances it could not beat David Seaman, the Arsenal goalie.

United remain four points ahead of Chelsea and five points ahead of Arsenal, though it has played a game more.

Chelsea drew, 1-1, at home to Blackburn. It too wasted a first-half penalty, taken by Frank Lampard, the French World Cup defender. Jody Morris put Chelsea ahead a minute before half time.

Ashley Ward tied the game with a header six minutes for the end. In the dying moments, Gianluca Vialli, Chelsea's player-manager, and Marlon Bromes, a young Blackburn player, clashed and both received red cards.

Everton, which had scored three goals in its first 12 home league matches beat Middlesbrough, 5-0.

SPAIN Daniel Passarella, the former Argentina national team coach, flew into Madrid on Thursday to talk to Atletico Madrid about taking the club's vacant coaching position.

"At this moment I'm not Atletico coach but I'm hoping we can work something out," Passarella said before leaving Buenos Aires.

On Wednesday, Juninho scored to give Atletico a 2-1 victory over Espanyol in the first leg of its Spanish Cup quarterfinal.

Real Madrid, under pressure following its loss Sunday in Barcelona, beat Racing Santander, 6-2, in a cup game.

NETHERLANDS Ajax and SC Heerenveen produced a fine match on a snow-covered field Wednesday, but both lost ground in the race for European places after a 2-2 draw.

The team to profit was second-placed Vitesse Arnhem which, playing in the comfort of its roofed-over Gelredome stadium, beat struggling NEC Nacred, 3-1.

Sunday Oliseh, the Ajax defender, scored for both teams in the match in Heerenveen. Tiji Babangida scored the other Ajax goal. Bouwjeij Pahlplatz leveled for the host with eight minutes to play. (AP, Reuters, AFP)

SCOREBOARD

BASKETBALL

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

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New York	4	2	.667	0
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Philadelphia	4	2	.667	0
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Atlanta	3	3	.500	1
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Charlotte	3	3	.500	1
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New Jersey	2	4	.333	3
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Washington	1	4	.200	3 1/2
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Chicago	1	4	.200	3 1/2
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Detroit	0	5	.000	4
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Toronto	0	5	.000	4
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Charlotte	0	5	.000	4
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Chicago	0	5	.000	4
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Washington	0	5	.000	4
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Indiana	0	5	.000	4
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Cleveland	0	5	.000	4
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Detroit	0	5	.000	4
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Toronto	0	5	.000	4
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Charlotte	0	5	.000	4
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WESTERN CONFERENCE

PACIFIC DIVISION

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Portland	4	2	.667	0
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San Antonio	4	2	.667	0
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Phoenix	4	2	.667	0
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Utah	3	3	.500	1
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Los Angeles	3	3	.500	1
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Golden State	3	3	.500	1
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San Jose	2	4	.333	2
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Seattle	1	5	.167	3
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Portland	0	6	.000	4
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San Antonio	0	6	.000	4
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Phoenix	0	6	.000	4
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Utah	0	6	.000	4
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Los Angeles	0	6	.000	4
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Golden State	0	6	.000	4
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San Jose	0	6	.000	4
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Seattle	0	6	.000	4
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Portland	0	6	.000	4
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San Antonio	0	6	.000	4
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Phoenix	0	6	.000	4
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Utah	0	6	.000	4
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Los Angeles	0	6	.000	4
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Golden State	0	6	.000	4
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San Jose	0	6	.000	4
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Seattle	0	6	.000	4
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POSTCARD

Sade Revisited

By Martin Arnold
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — The Marquis de Sade, seriously. That's what's happening.

In book publishing's continuing fascination with literary biography, there is yet again a revival of interest in the debauchee Sade and an attempt to redefine his place in literature. Mostly it upgrades him, from semihuman deviant and pornographer to satirist and almost insouciant modernist, which is a dazzling bound in his reputation. But there are naysayers.

Perhaps this current interest in Sade comes because we are not only at the end of a dark century of wars and worse, but also at the end of the century of the exploration of the unconscious in which the dank bottom was plumbed.

"He explored the bottom line of human nature, the worst imaginable; he is modern because any writer who explores the depths of human nature is modern," says Neil Schaeffer, a professor of English literature at Brooklyn College and the author of a new biography. Whatever the reason, this fascination with Sade seems real.

Schaeffer's book, "The Marquis de Sade: A Life," (Alfred A. Knopf), will be published in April, and Arcade Publishing will shortly issue "Letters From Prison," letters written by Sade and translated chiefly by Richard Seaver, the house's president.

In December, Simon & Schuster published Francine du Plessix Gray's "At Home With the Marquis de Sade: A Life," which found value in Sade's work, and the University of Chicago Press brought out Laurence Boag's "Sade: A Biographical Essay," which didn't.

Sade's own writings are available in bookstores but don't exactly jump off the shelves, although a 1965 Grove Press edition has sold more than 330,000 copies.

The case now being made by some for Sade in the United States — it had been made in France earlier — is literary. That is, he is an important writer. This despite the fact that Sade didn't write very well — his prose often hammers the reader with numbing repetition — and the stuff of his work was sodomy, murder, torture, incest, self-indulgence of the wildest sort and other infamies. All well beyond the feeble scribbles found in most pornography shops. And not usually the subjects of intellectual huzzahs.

Gray, whose book exposed both good and bad qualities in the marquis, said in an interview: "This man has a few things to teach us. His work is bracing. You can be shocked, but it's beyond the pale of sexual imagination. It's profoundly anti-erotic. I don't think Sade ever encouraged anyone to act."

"He had manic energy, which is not unlike Jackson Pollock, and the raw animal release of energy — Titian, Beethoven — is very much at the center of the greatest art. That doesn't mean it necessarily creates great art or did in his case; he taught me the importance of energy."

If Sade's work has all the thumping sensuality of a nudist beach, to Gray, "his philosophy of the bedroom is hilarious."

"It's satire," she continued, "a parody of erotic novels, a grisly fascinating parody of many things that have been around Western culture for centuries."

Berlin Film Festival: A New Focus on Nazi Past

By Alan Riding
New York Times Service

BERLIN — Since the end of the Cold War, the Berlin Film Festival has given up its obsession with East-West issues in favor of frequent evocation of Germany's earlier — Nazi — past. No surprise, then, that this year's 49th festival should include two documentaries and two feature films about the Nazi years. At a time of intense debate here over both compensation for Nazi victims and construction of a Holocaust Memorial in Berlin, the subject seems more topical than ever.

Yet, for all that, "Aimee and Jaguar," which opened the 11-day festival on Feb. 10, represents a significant change in the way German cinema addresses the Nazi era. By recounting a poignant true love story set in wartime Berlin between a Jewish woman and a non-Jewish mother of four, a German film has for the first time dared use the Nazi regime simply as the context for a human drama.

"I'm sure this would not have been possible 10 years ago," said Max Farberbock, the film's director. "In fact, without Steven Spielberg's 'Schindler's List,' it might still be impossible. What Spielberg did was to eliminate the borders of what was possible."

Gunther Rohrbach, one of the film's producers, agreed. "Feature films about the Nazis have always been laden with emotion," he said. "But we did not feel we had a right to turn this subject into entertainment. We felt we had to inform people, not move them. But things have changed."

Based on Erica Fischer's book, "Aimee and Jaguar," the film brings together Felice Schragenheim (played by Maria Schrader), one of a group of high-living Jewish lesbians living undercover in Berlin in 1942, and Lilly Wust (Juliane Kohler), a German housewife who took a Nazi officer as a lover while her husband was on the Russian front. Felice fell for Lilly, and eventually the love was reciprocated. Felice called herself Jaguar and gave Lilly the nickname Aimee.

Felice, who worked under an assumed name at a Nazi newspaper and gave information to the local resistance, was eventually arrested and sent to Buchenwald in August 1944; she is believed to have died in the final days of the war. Lilly survived and mourns Felice to this day. "I can imagine nothing more wonderful than seeing this tribute to Felice," Wust, now 85, said after attending the film's premiere. The film, which has now been released in Germany,



Fernando Trueta next to a poster for his new film, "The Girl of Your Dreams."

was well received by German movie critics. "Aimee and Jaguar" is a watershed in German cinema," Hanns-Georg Rodek wrote in Die Welt. "We are no longer afraid of using these stories. We can view our history with freedom and open-mindedness."

If "Aimee and Jaguar" was indirectly inspired by "Schindler," Fernando Trueta's "The Girl of Your Dreams" is likely to be compared with Roberto Benigni's "Life Is Beautiful" in that it, too, treats the Nazi era with humor. The winner of seven Goyas, the Spanish academy awards, it follows a Spanish movie director and half a dozen Spanish actors who are invited to make a movie in Berlin in 1938 as a symbol of the mutual admiration between Hitler and Franco.

With Penelope Cruz playing Macarena Granada, the starlet who is chased around town by Joseph Goebbels, Hitler's propaganda chief, the movie spoofs both the Nazis and the Spaniards. When the Spaniards complain that German extras cannot pass as Andalusians, East European Jews are brought under guard to play the roles. But even when Macarena saves the life of a handsome Russian Jew and they escape to-

gether to Paris à la "Casablanca," the film's mood remains light.

"I don't think it is daring to do this now," said Trueta, whose film "Belle Époque" won the American Oscar for best foreign-language movie in 1993. "The Marx Brothers and Charlie Chaplin were daring in their day. But I don't think Benigni and I are taking big risks by looking back like this. There is the risk of making a bad film, yes, but there are no political, ideological or moral risks."

In contrast, two Holocaust-related documentaries shown here are perhaps more traditional. "The Specialist," written by Ronny Brauman and Eyal Sivan, edits 350 hours of film of Adolf Eichmann's trial in Jerusalem in 1961 into a 128-minute courtroom drama inspired by Hannah Arendt's report on the trial. "The Last Days," directed by James Moll and produced by Spielberg's Shoah Foundation, retraces the experiences of five Hungarians trapped in the Nazis' final drive to exterminate all Jews.

The challenge for major film festivals is to combine the commercial with the unexpected. Thus, most American films being screened here — among them Terrence Malick's

"Thin Red Line" — are simply using the festival to earn free publicity before their European releases, while the only American film to premiere here was Alan Rudolph's adaptation of Kurt Vonnegut's best-selling novel "Breakfast of Champions," starring Bruce Willis, Nick Nolte and Albert Finney.

But some less-heralded European movies have awakened more enthusiasm. Among those was "Mifune," the first film that Soren Kragh-Jacobsen has made following the rules of the Dogme '95 Manifesto, proclaimed by his Danish fellow directors, Lars von Trier ("The Idiots") and Thomas Vinterberg ("The Celebration"). Dogme directors agree among other things to use hand-held cameras, to shoot only on location, to use no special lighting, to record their sound at the same time as their images and to avoid "superficial action (murders, weapons, etc. must not occur)."

In "Mifune," Kersten (Anders Berthelsen), a newly married man who claims he has no family, suddenly learns that his father has died and that his retarded brother, Rud (Jesper Asbolt), is alone on the dilapidated family farm. He heads home to bury his father and to hire a housekeeper to look after his brother. The job is taken by Liva (Iben Hjelte), a high-class prostitute who is fleeing her own problems. The result is a touching tale of responsibility, love and redemption.

Kragh-Jacobsen said the Dogme rules liberated him, enabling him to return to the basics of plot and actors without interference from modern technology. "I came back to the joy of filmmaking," he said. "I came from making big European productions, so-called Euro-puddings. It was like going from being the captain of a supertanker to being on a small boat that you can take where you want to."

Several other films suggested that announcement of the death of European movies might be premature. "Between the Legs," a raunchy Spanish film directed by Manuel Gomez Pereira and starring Javier Bardem and Victoria Abril, is a comedy about the perils of sexual addiction. "Night Shapes," a German film directed by Andreas Dresen, weaves together three stories set in Berlin on the night of a visit by Pope John Paul II.

The festival also offered premieres of two French films: Thomas Vincent's "Karnaval" tells the story of a bemused Moroccan immigrant caught up in carnival celebrations in Dunkirk, and Bertrand Tavernier's "If All Begins Today" is set in a nursery school in a depressed mining town in northern France.

PEOPLE

THE actor Robert Carlyle went to Buckingham Palace on Thursday to pick up his Officer of the Order of British Empire honor, which Queen Elizabeth awarded him at the end of last year. Carlyle — sporting a severe haircut for his current role as the villain in the next James Bond film, "The World Is Not Enough" — was accompanied by his wife, Anastasia, and his father, Joe Carlyle. Although he is one of Britain's most popular actors, after his roles in "The Full Monty" and "Trainspotting," Carlyle still couldn't seem to believe he was really at the palace. "The queen asked, 'How did you get in here?'" he joked.

A Rolls-Royce Silver Cloud seized by U.S. marshals at the home of Michael Jackson's parents will be auctioned off next week to pay off part of a \$1.3 million bankruptcy judgment. Bidding on the 1963 Rolls takes place Feb. 27. The minimum bid will be \$4,400. In December, marshals seized items from the Encino, California, home of Joseph

and Katherine Jackson, including a baby grand piano. A 1984 Rolls-Royce was seized three months earlier. Those items will be sold at another auction.

Andrea Bocelli, the Italian tenor who has sold millions of pop and classical CDs, will make his U.S. operatic debut in a Michigan Opera Theatre production

of Massenet's "Werther." Bocelli, who is blind, will appear in the title role with the mezzo-soprano Denyce Graves for six performances at the Detroit Opera House Oct. 30 through Nov. 14.

Lyle Lovett is whistling a happy tune over a Boston Ballet performance choreographed to his music. "Gosh, I'm so

excited," the country star said. "I've been to the ballet, but I'm not a regular goer to the ballet. That's why this is such a surprise and such an honor." "Nine Lives: The Songs of Lyle Lovett" was to open at the Shubert Theatre on Thursday and run through Feb. 28.

Fox Studios Australia said Thursday that it would produce a sequel to the movie "Mission Impossible," again starring Tom Cruise, with filming expected to start on March 20.

The director Barry Sonnenfeld has sworn off rented jets after a crash landing at a suburban Los Angeles airport. The Gulfstream II rolled past the end of the runway and veered into three parked planes at Van Nuys Airport. The director of "Get Shorty" and "Men in Black," who is afraid of flying, was returning from a trip to New York for post-production work. "The sad news for Warner and Disney is that I'm not going to take any of these rented jets," he said.



Robert and Anastasia Carlyle at Buckingham Palace with his OBE.

Delacroix's 'Liberty' Goes to Tokyo

Agence France-Presse

PARIS — Eugene Delacroix's "Liberty Leading the People" left Paris on Wednesday for a five-week exhibition in Tokyo.

An Airbus plane was chartered specially to carry the painting, completed in 1830, "because of its fragility and size," said Patrick Duval, spokesman for the "French Year in Japan" program, of which the Delacroix exhibition is a part.

The painting, showing a bare-breasted woman waving a tricolor flag leading a crowd of revolutionaries, was placed in a crate equipped with springs to avoid vibrations during the 20-hour flight.

The plane was decorated for the occasion with a 36-square-meter reproduction of the painting, but to avoid any diplomatic incidents in Islamic Bahrain, where the plane must refuel, the bare breast was covered up.



(put on a happy face)

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France	0-800-99-0011	Netherlands	0800-822-9111
Germany	0130-0010	Russia (Moscow)	755-5042
		Saudi Arabia	1-800-10
		Spain	900-99-00-11
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